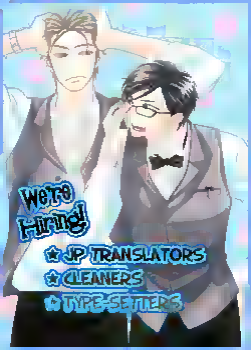
We're Hiring!
JP TRANSLATORS
CLEANERS
TYPE-SETTERS

BBC

BE×BOY COMICS

COLD SLEEP COLD SLEEP COLD SLEEP COLD SLEEP COLD SLEEP COLD SLEEP COLD SLEEP

COLD SLEEP

ASOU
MITSUAKI
KONOHARA
NARISE

BBC

COLD SLEEP

BE×BOY COMICS

ASOU
MITSUAKI
KONOHARA
NARISE

After a horrible car accident, Tohru lost his memory. Thankfully, Fujishima, a man who claims to be an ex-colleague and friend, takes him in. Fujishima offers support and practically everything but the past, causing Tohru to feel forlorn. Yet awkward and tender feelings are taking root....? This is the manga adapted from Konoharo Narise's popular novel!

ASOU MITSUAKI

I give sincere thanks to everyone who bought this book I never would have guessed that I'd get a chance to work on this collaboration It all still feels unreal to me

KONOHARA NARISE

I am the writer of the original story When I started writing this story I didn't think it would be adapted to a manga one day Thank you Asou-sensei Please also give your love to the Tahru and Fujishima who have been bestowed with life and shape

Girls
Cold Sleep
Asou Mitsuaki & Konohara
RAW PROVIDER: Yuffie
RAW PREPPER: teetee
TRANSLATOR: teetee
PROOFREADER: keeshtihn
CLEANER: gwendelp
TYPE-SETTER: Yuffie
QCER: Yuffie

COLD SLEEP
麻生 ミツ晃　/木原音瀬

CONTENTS

COLD SLEEP
3 BE * BOY GOLD (FT. FEB – DEC 10)

FLOWER MORNING
201 NEW ADDITION

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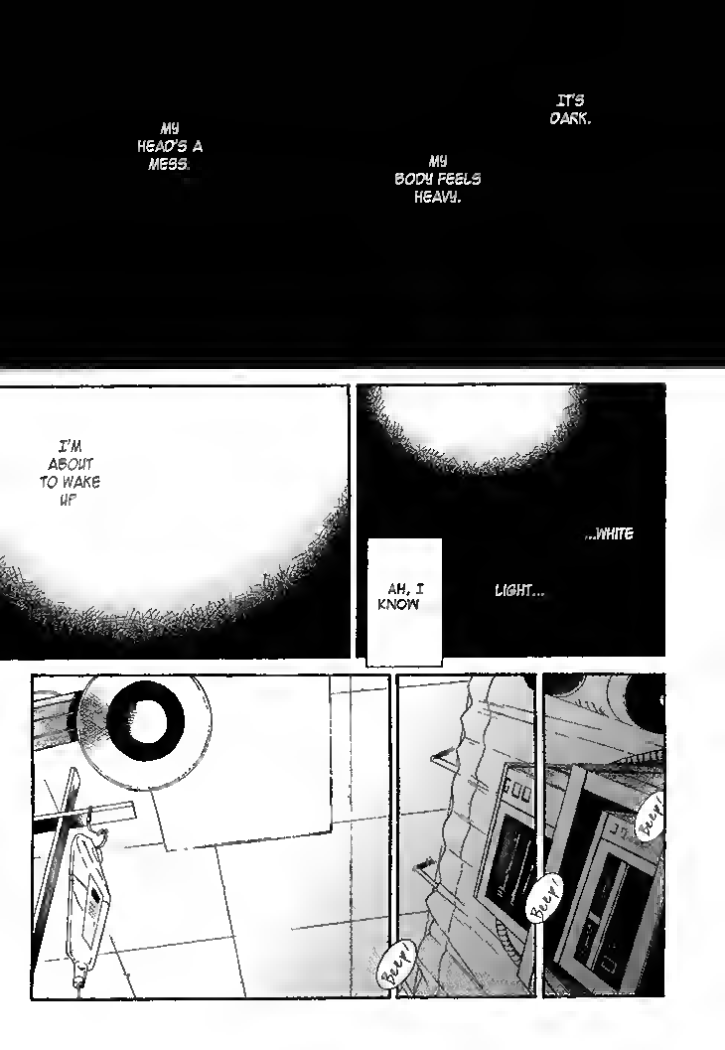
203 NE U ADDITION

AFTERWORD
209 NEW ADDITION

COLD SLEEP
コールドスリープ

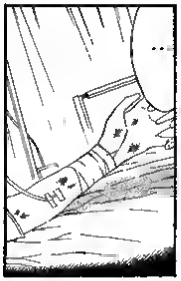
COLD
コールド
スリープ
SLEEP


IT'S DARK.
MY HEAD'S A MESS.
MY BODY FEELS HEAVY.
I'M ABOUT TO WAKE UP
...WHITE LIGHT...
AH, I KNOW
Beep!
Beep!
Beep!

DON'T GET UP
WHAT'S YOUR NAME? CAN YOU TELL ME YOUR NAME?
MY NAME...?

WHERE AM I?
ARE YOU AWAKE?

!


...

MY NAME

...
THE DOCTOR WILL BE RIGHT WITH YOU

THAT'S RIGHT
HE'S TAKAHISA TOHRU

OH,
THANK YOU
I GOT YOU ALL THE ESSENTIAL PERSONAL HYGIENE PRODUCTS THEY'RE IN YOUR ROOM
...
LET ME KNOW IF YOU NEED ANYTHING ELSE
TAKAHISA-KUN?
SORRY. YES, I WAS LISTENING

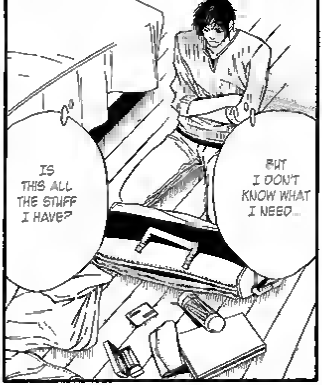
IT'S JUST THAT MY FACE... LOOKS SO STRANGE TO ME...
YOU'RE EXHAUSTED RIGHT?
YOU SHOULD RETIRE FOR THE NIGHT...
IT'S WEIRD, ISN'T IT?
IT'S ALREADY BEEN THREE MONTHS SINCE THE CAR ACCIDENT
...

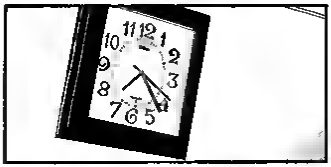
EXAMINATION ROOM
ACCORDING TO PAST CASE STUDIES REGARDING MEMORY LOSS
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO SAY FOR SURE WHEN YOU'LL RECOVER YOUR MEMORIES
INSTEAD OF FIXATING ON THE PAST, WHY DON'T YOU JUST THINK ABOUT WHAT YOU WANT TO DO FROM HERE ON OUT?
YOU'RE STILL YOUNG, TAKAHISA-SAN
MAYBE TOMORROW. OR TWENTY YEARS FROM NOW
OR MAYBE YOU WON'T.
I... WHAT KIND OF PERSON WAS I?

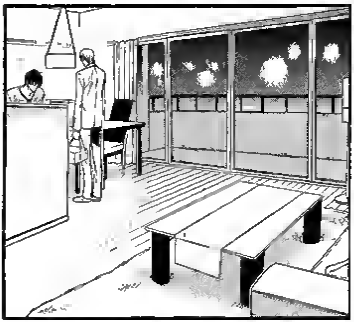
AND NO ONE ELSE BUT YOU EVER COMES
IS IT BECAUSE YOU'RE MY ONLY ACQUAINTANCE, FUJISHIMA-SAN?
WE WERE CLOSE, RIGHT...?
I MEAN, YOU VISIT ME EVERY DAY...
IT WAS A SINGLE VEHICLE COLLISION
YOU WERE...
YOUR PARENTS DIED EARLY. YOU HAVE NO SIBLINGS... OR ANY CLOSE RELATIVES.
BECAUSE OF THIS ACCIDENT, YOU LOST YOUR JOB
SINCE YOU MISSED THE RENT PAYMENT, YOUR APARTMENT LEASE WAS TERMINATED

DO YOU WANT TO STAY AT MY PLACE FOR A WHILE?
WHEN YOU RE DIS-CHARGED FROM THE HOSPITAL
...SO?
FUJISHIMA-SAN
OH. RIGHT
GOOD MORNING
...YOU RE UP EARLY YOU COULD SLEEP SOME MORE
WHEN I WAS AT THE HOSPITAL, THIS WAS THE USUAL TIME I WOKE UP

THE KEYS TO THE APARTMENT
IF YOU GET HUNGRY, USE THIS MONEY TO BUY YOURSELF SOMETHING
THIS IS...!
I'LL BE BACK BY 7
USE WHATEVER CHANGE YOU HAVE TO GO YOU GET THE THINGS YOU NEED
BUT THIS IS TOO MUCH!
SLAM
...
GET THE THINGS I NEED

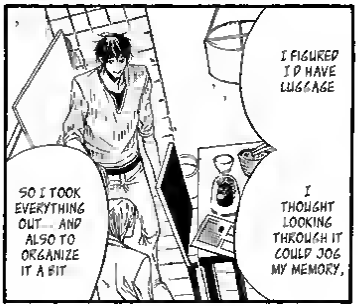

IS THIS ALL THE STUFF I HAVE?
BUT I DON'T KNOW WHAT I NEED...





HI WELCOME BACK

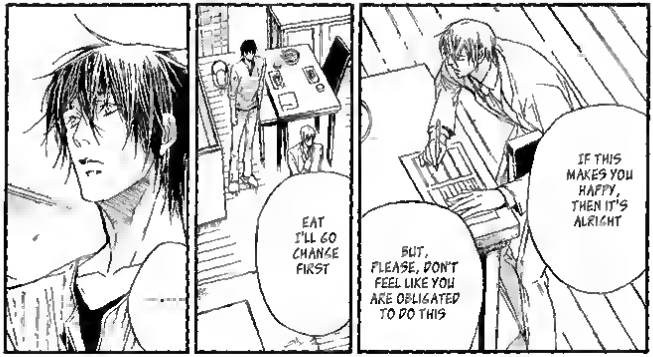
IF I USED TO COOK I MIGHT STILL KNOW HOW THEN I CAN

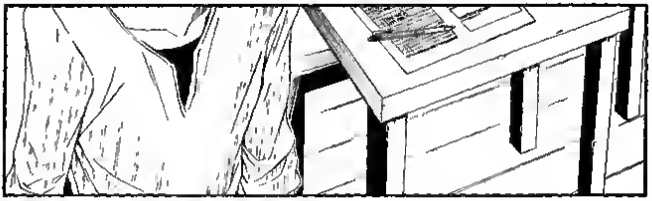

I FIGURED I'D HAVE LUGGAGE
I THOUGHT LOOKING THROUGH IT COULD JOG MY MEMORY,
SO I TOOK EVERYTHING OUT... AND ALSO TO ORGANIZE IT A BIT

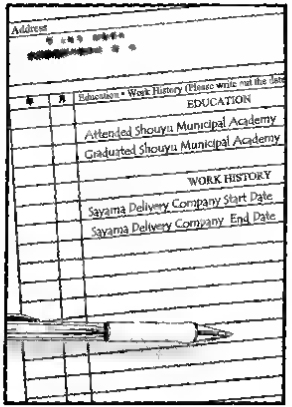
SORRY, I ACTED ON MY OWN
YES
YOUR RÉSUMÉ?
THERE'S SOMETHING I NEED TO ASK YOU
I DECIDED TO WORK THE GRAVEYARD SHIFT AT THE CONVENIENCE STORE BY THE PARK
BUT I CAN'T REMEMBER A THING. SO THERE ARE MANY AREAS I COULDN'T FILL IN
WHY?

EH...?
WHY DO YOU WANT TO WORK AT THE CONVENIENCE STORE?
I WAS THINKING I COULD EARN SOME MONEY QUICKLY WITH THIS JOB
...I USED UP ALL THE MONEY I HAD ON ME
I FOUND THE SIGNET IN MY LUGGAGE, BUT NO BANKBOOK
SO... I MUST NOT HAVE ANY SAVINGS, RIGHT?
I KEEP DEPENDING ON YOU FOR EVERYTHING ELSE, AND THAT'S JUST—
TAKA-HISA-KUN
EVEN THOUGH YOU TOLD ME MY HOSPITAL BILLS WERE COVERED BY THE CAR INSURANCE,

I
WANT YOU TO ONLY THINK OF AND FOR YOURSELF...
YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT MONEY
YOU DON'T HAVE TO BOTHER WITH HOUSEHOLD CHORES EITHER
YES?
THEN I CAN DO WHAT I WANT, RIGHT?
BECAUSE THERE'S NOTHING TO DO ALL DAY...
AND I FEEL RESTLESS IF I DON'T KEEP MYSELF MOVING
.....

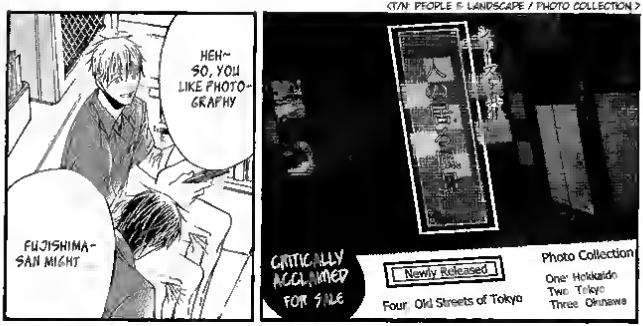

EAT
I'LL GO CHANGE FIRST
BUT, PLEASE, DON'T FEEL LIKE YOU ARE OBLIGATED TO DO THIS
IF THIS MAKES YOU HAPPY, THEN IT'S ALRIGHT

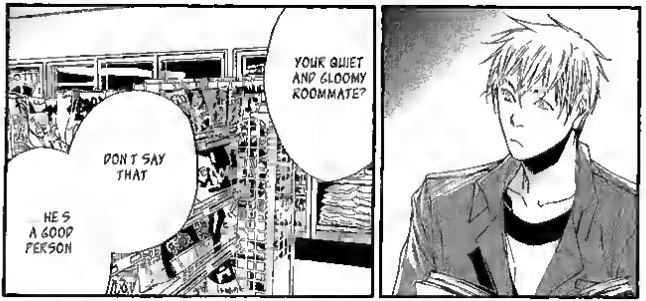



Address
Education • Work History (Please write out the date
EDUCATION
Attended Shouyu Municipal Academy
Graduated Shouyu Municipal Academy
WORK HISTORY
Sayama Delivery Company Start Date
Sayama Delivery Company End Date

IT'S ABOUT A GUY WHO LOSES HIS MEMORY
SEE~ FIT'S YOU TO A T
WHAT IS IT?
THIS MANGA IS TOTALLY YOU!
HEY, HEY! TAKAHISA!
DON'T TELL ANYONE ELSE ABOUT MY CONDITION
SPEAKING OF WHICH, BECAUSE YOU KEEP ASKING ME QUES-TIONS—
YOU'RE JUST DUMBLY HONEST TO TELL ME EVERYTHING IT'S OKAY, YOU CAN TRUST ME
YOU SHOULDN'T LOOK THROUGH THE MAGA-ZINES FOR SALE
NO PROBLEM. THE CCTV CAN'T SEE ME IN THIS CORNER
I HAVE THIS
OH
THIS VOLUME AS A WHOLE WASN'T AS GOOD
SO... IS IT GOOD?

<TN: PEOPLE & LANDSCAPE / PHOTO COLLECTION>



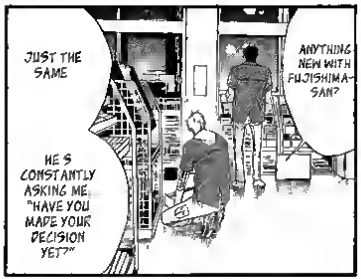


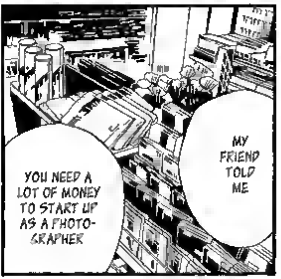
SO, HE'S ONE OF THOSE PEOPLE
WHO FORCE THEIR HOBBIES AND OPINIONS ON OTHERS HUH
HE BROUGHT ME PHOTO COLLECTIONS DURING MY STAY AT THE HOSPITAL,
SO MAYBE IT'S AN INTEREST OF HIS?
MOST PEOPLE WOULD BRING MAGA-ZINES

HE'S NOT A BAD PERSON
—THAT'S HIS WAY OF SHOWING HIS CONCERN.
YOU WENT AND BOUGHT THIS FOR ME? THANKS
TODAY, I ALSO—
B & L LANDSCAPE

SUO
VOCATIONAL SCHOOL OF PHOTOGRAPHIC TECHNOLOGY
Admission Guide
YOU WANT ME TO ENROLL IN THIS SCHOOL...?
I THINK IT'S FOR THE BEST
IT'S GOING TO BE A TOUGH ROAD FOR A CAREER AS A PHOTOGRAPHER. BUT YOU'RE STILL YOUNG
TAKE IT AS IF IT'S A CHALLENGE
THE ENROLLMENT DATE IS THREE MONTHS AWAY...
THINK IT OVER CAREFULLY

Merry Christmas


ANYTHING NEW WITH FUJISHIMA-SAN?
JUST THE SAME
HE'S CONSTANTLY ASKING ME "HAVE YOU MADE YOUR DECISION YET?"


MY FRIEND TOLD ME
YOU NEED A LOT OF MONEY TO START UP AS A PHOTO-GRAPHER

SO
WHY DON'T YOU JUST ASK HIM?
ASK HIM WHY HE'S PUSHING YOU TO STUDY PHOTO-GRAPHY

HE SAID HE WAS YOUR FRIEND FROM AN OLD WORK-PLACE?
RATHER THAN A FRIEND HE SOUNDS LIKE A PATRON

.....

I CAN SPEAK MY MIND FREELY WITH YOU KUSUDA, BUT...
BUT WHAT?

WHAT?

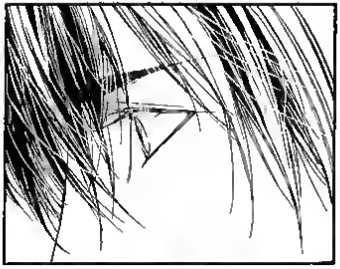
FOR SOME REASON, I CAN'T WITH THAT PERSON...
ALSO, MY FEELINGS ABOUT FUJISHIMA-SAN
PART OF IT IS PROBABLY BECAUSE I'M INDEBTED TO HIM...

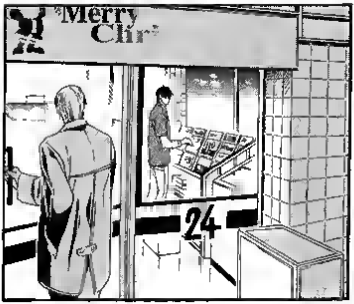
HOW DOES IT FEEL TO HAVE NO MEMORIES?
I WANTED TO ASK YOU THIS FOR A WHILE NOW

HE'S SUPPOSED TO BE A FRIEND FROM BEFORE I LOST MY MEMORY...
ARE KIND OF WEIRD

A BLAZING LIGHT IS SHINING UPON YOU.
IT'S LIKE WAKING UP FROM A VERY DEEP SLEEP
A PLEASANT AND PEACEFUL SLEEP WHEN YOU OPEN YOUR EYES,
HOW SHOULD I EXPLAIN IT
THE CLOSEST WOULD BE THE MOMENT WHEN YOU WAKE UP IN THE MORNING
AND EVERYTHING IS SHROUDED IN THAT BLINDING WHITENESS
THE LIGHT SEEMS TO PASS THROUGH YOUR EYES AND STRAIGHT INTO THE BRAIN,
NOTHING BUT THAT WHITENESS
A BLANK EMPTINESS
IT'S FRIGHTEN-ING...

24




Merry
24

WERE YOU WORKING LATE?
IT'S THE END OF THE YEAR EVERYBODY GETS BUSY AROUND THIS TIME

COFFEE
Chocolate
YOUR TOTAL IS 573 YEN

YOUR CHANGE IS 427 YEN

AND HERE I WAS THINKING YOU WEREN'T GOING TO FIT INTO THIS JOB...

HMM...
TODAY IS CHRISTMAS

KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK
THANKS

TAKA-HISA-KUN
WHAT'S WRONG? YOU SHOULD SLEEP IN YOUR ROOM
...UHH...
SORRY I WAS LATE
THAT'S OKAY WELCOME BACK
Oh yeah Fujishima-san
today—

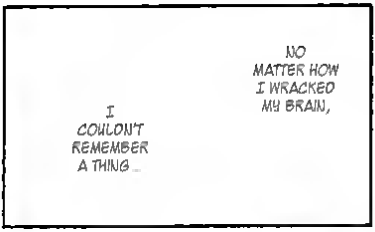
IT'S YOUR CHRISTMAS PRESENT
I CAN'T ACCEPT IT
YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE MODEST WITH ME
PLEASE RETURN IT!
... YOU DON'T LIKE IT?
IF NOT, I CAN EXCHANGE IT FOR ANOTHER MODEL
THAT CAMERA
OR ANY OTHER ONE. I HAVE NO NEED FOR IT

I DON'T WANT TO TAKE PICTURES!
I THINK IT'S NOT A BAD IDEA FOR A MONTH OR TWO. YOU CAN TAKE IT EASY AND REHABILITATE...
BUT YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY WORK AT THAT CONVENIENCE STORE FOREVER
EH?
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO?
THEN
IT'S ABOUT TIME TO FIND SOMETHING YOU WANT TO DO
TO THINK SERIOUSLY ABOUT YOUR FUTURE

"Instead of fixating on the past, why don't you just think about what you want to do from here on out?"
WHY IS FUJISHIMA-SAN TELLING ME THIS, TOO?
JUST BECAUSE I LOST MY MEMORIES, I CAN'T JUST SAY, "OH, IS THAT SO," AND MOVE ON!
TAKA-HISA-KUN?
I DON'T HAVE ANY IDEA ABOUT THINGS I WANT TO DO AND THINGS I DON'T WANT TO DO!
SO, HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO HAVE ANY DREAMS ABOUT THE FUTURE?!

I KNEW THIS PERSON'S FACE AND VOICE
BEFORE I KNEW MY OWN FACE AND NAME,

ALL THIS TIME, THIS PERSON GAVE ME MY EVERYTHING

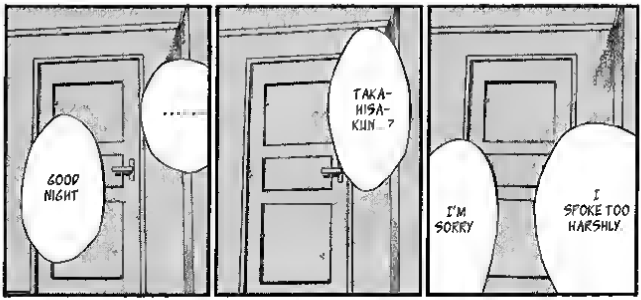

NO MATTER HOW I WRACKED MY BRAIN,
I COULDN'T REMEMBER A THING...

TAKAHISA TOHRU

THAT'S RIGHT
HE'S TAKAHISA TOHRU

I...
TAKA-HISA-KUN?
FUJISHIMA-SAN,
I THOUGHT YOU WERE THE ONE PERSON WHO'D UNDERSTAND ME

knock knock
TAKA-HISA-KUN



IF ONLY
MY MEMORIES
CAME BACK..

MUST HAVE HAD OTHER ACQUAINTANCES BESIDES FUJISHIMA-SAN

THE ME BEFORE THE ACCIDENT

I WOULDN'T HAVE TO FEEL ANXIOUS, LOST, AND LONELY

I MUST HAVE

AND THINGS I WANTED TO DO

THAT'S THE ONLY THING THE PRESENT ME

THINKS ABOUT ALL DAY.

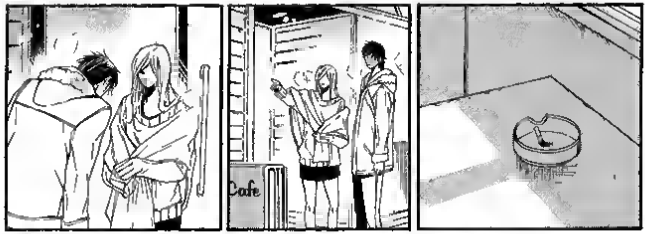
Girls
Cold Sleep
Asou Mitsuaki & Konohara
RAW PROVIDER: Yuffie
RAW PREPPER: teetee
TRANSLATOR: teetee
PROOFREADER: keeshtihn
CLEANER: gwendelp
TYPE-SETTER: Yuffie
QCER: Yuffie

I WOULDN'T HAVE TO FEEL ANXIOUS, LOST, AND LONELY
IF ONLY MY MEMORIES CAME BACK,
IF IT WAS THE ME BEFORE THE ACCIDENT...
COLD SLEEP
CT/N: IWASAKI VILLAS?
YOU... YOU'RE STILL ALIVE?!
WHAT THE HELL DO YOU WANT?
SO YOU DO KNOW ME...
SHIT!
いわさきそう
DING DONG
I'M COMING, I'M COMING

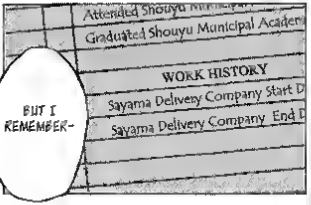
PLEASE TELL ME EVERY-THING
YOU CAN ABOUT ME

I INQUIRED AT THE FACILITY I WAS HOSPITALIZED AT FOR THE HOSPITAL EMERGENCY ROOM I WAS TRANSPORTED FROM.
AND THEY GAVE ME MY OLD ADDRESS
Cafe
SO YOU LOST YOUR MEMORIES.
HEH
ANYTHING IS FINE
PLEASE TELL ME WHATEVER YOU KNOW
YOU WERE LIVING AT THE UNIT NEXT TO ME, IN APT 2.
BUT WE WEREN'T CLOSE OR ANYTHING.
WHAT WAS THAT FOR?
Cough Cough Cough Cough
IF I DID SOMETHING LIKE THAT TO YOUR OLD SELF,
Blows

VIOLENT, CAUSTIC,
BARGING INTO PEOPLE'S HOMES AND SCREAMING AT THEM
IN MY EYES, YOU WERE A ROTTEN-MANNERED GUY
YOU WOULD HAVE BEAT THE SHIT OUT OF ME, REGARDLESS THAT I'M A WOMAN
THAT'S THE KIND OF MAN YOU ARE
WHY DON'T YOU JUST START YOUR LIFE ANEW?
SIGH-
ISN'T IT GOOD THAT YOU LOST YOUR MEMORY?
YOU'RE NOT TOO BAD THE WAY YOU ARE NOW
THIS WAY, IF RUMORS GOT OUT THAT YOU DIED FROM THAT CAR ACCIDENT,
NOBODY WOULD SAY, "GOOD RIDDANCE" TO YOU

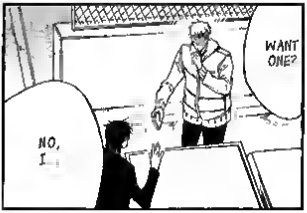


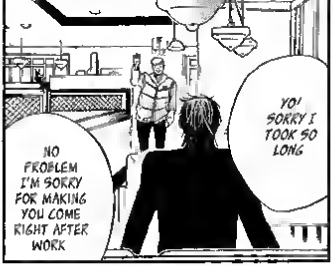
<T/N: SAYAMA DELIVERY COMPANY / NANRI HEADQUARTERS>



ARE YOU FROM A DETECTIVE AGENCY?
WHY ARE YOU LOOKING FOR THIS MAN?
IF YOU DON MIND ME ASKING...
BUT BEFORE YOU GO AHEAD AND DO THAT,
.....
UHH NEVER MIND
THANK YOU FOR YOUR AS-SISTANCE
MY OLD CO-WORKERS WOULD WALK UP TO ME AND ASK, "HOW ARE YOU DOING?"
WHEN I CAME BACK TO MY OLD WORKPLACE,
I WAS HOPING THAT

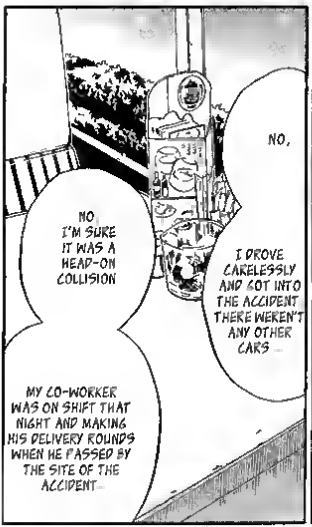
TAKA-HISA...?
IT'S TAKAHISA, ISN'T IT?
DON'T YOU RECOGNIZE ME? IT'S ME, ISHII!
I WORKED WITH YOU OVER AT THE KITASATO BRANCH!
IT'S BEEN A WHILE!
HOW ARE YOU?


WANT ONE?
NO, I...


YO! SORRY I TOOK SO LONG
NO PROBLEM I'M SORRY FOR MAKING YOU COME RIGHT AFTER WORK

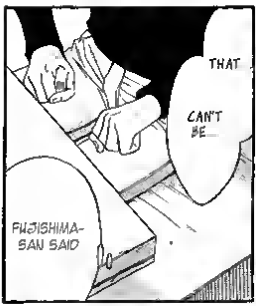
HAVING AMNESIA CHANGES ALL YOUR OLD HABITS TOO?
.....

YOU QUIT?
YOU USED TO BE SUCH A CHAIN SMOKER


NO,
NO, I'M SURE IT WAS A HEAD-ON COLLISION
I DROVE CARELESSLY AND GOT INTO THE ACCIDENT THERE WEREN'T ANY OTHER CARS...
MY CO-WORKER WAS ON SHIFT THAT NIGHT AND MAKING HIS DELIVERY ROUNDS WHEN HE PASSED BY THE SITE OF THE ACCIDENT...

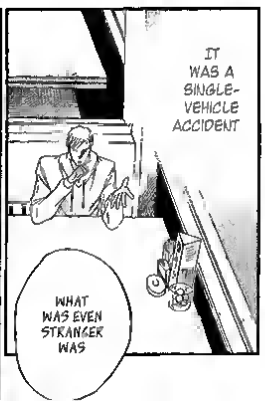
WASN'T THERE ANOTHER CAR INVOLVED?
BUT MAN, YOU'VE GOT THE LUCK OF THE DEVIL

HE SAW YOU, ALL BLOODIED UP.
DRAGGED OUT FROM THE MIDDLE OF THE TWO TOTALED CARS AND INTO THE AMBULANCE
HE DIDN'T THINK YOU'D MAKE IT
AND LIVE AFTER THAT

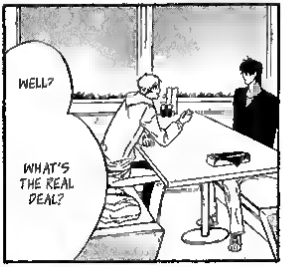

THAT
CAN'T BE...
FUJISHIMA-SAN SAID

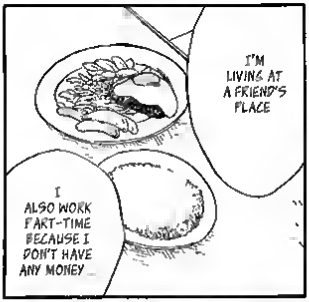
THEN YOU WENT MISSING

WE SUSPECTED YOU WERE SOME SORT OF POLITICAL BIGWIG OR ELITE
THERE WAS BARELY ANY NEWS COVERAGE COVERING THAT BIG OF AN ACCIDENT
AND SWEPT THIS INCIDENT UNDER THE RUG


IT WAS A SINGLE-VEHICLE ACCIDENT
WHAT WAS EVEN STRANGER WAS

I DON'T REALLY...


WELL?
WHAT'S THE REAL DEAL?


I'M LIVING AT A FRIEND'S PLACE
I ALSO WORK PART-TIME BECAUSE I DON'T HAVE ANY MONEY...

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATIENCE
WHAT ARE YOU UP TO NOW?

EH?
WEIRD.
YOU SHOULD HAVE FIVE, SIX HUNDRED THOUSAND YEN IN SAVINGS.
YOU TOLD ME YOU WERE GOING TO QUIT IN MARCH ONCE YOU EARNED ENOUGH.

YOU? BROKE?

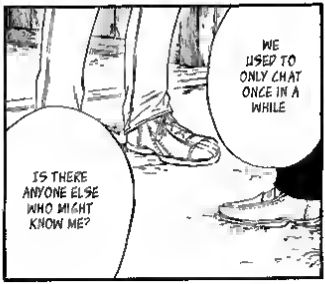
"I found the signet in my luggage, but no bank book.
So... I must not have any savings, right?"
BUT...
BUT FUJISHIMA-SAN NEVER...
FUJI-SHIMA-SAN?
IS THAT THE FRIEND YOU MENTIONED?
YES
HE SAID WE BECAME FRIENDS WHEN WE USED TO WORK AT THE SAME PLACE
DID HE? THAT SOUNDS A BIT OFF
IF YOU'RE LIVING TOGETHER, IT MEANS YOU TWO ARE REALLY CLOSE RIGHT?

IS HE REALLY A FRIEND?
YET NOT ONCE HAVE I EVER HEARD YOU TALK ABOUT A FUJISHIMA-SAN

<THE TOO BLURRY TO MAKE OUT>

I'M SORRY
I WASN'T MUCH HELP

YOU LIVE FAR.


WE USED TO ONLY CHAT ONCE IN A WHILE
IS THERE ANYONE ELSE WHO MIGHT KNOW ME?

THE TRAINS STOPPED RUNNING, RIGHT? HOW ARE YOU GETTING BACK?
I'LL WAIT FOR THE NIGHT BUS

I THINK IT S YOUR GIRLFRIEND?
AH!
THERE IS SOME-ONE
MY GIRL-FRIEND?
HMM... CAN'T THINK OF ANY
YOU KIND OF KEPT TO YOURSELF MOSTLY
IS THAT SO
...
SINCE YOU WENT MISSING, SHE S CALLED THE COMPANY QUITE A BIT ASKING FOR YOU
THAT WOMAN...
DING DING DING
The No 1 Bus will arrive shortly
THAT WOMAN
WANTED TO FIND OUT WHERE YOU WERE. SHE WAS REALLY PERSISTENT
I ANSWERED HER CALLS A FEW TIMES, SO IT LEFT A DEEP IMPRESSION ON ME

OH RIGHT,
LATER
IF ANYTHING ELSE COMES TO MIND, I'LL GIVE YOU A CALL
THANK YOU
TAKA-HISA!
THERE'S ONE OTHER THING

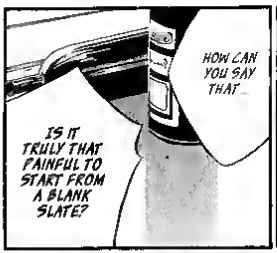
Puff
I'M BACK

WERE YOU DRINKING, FUJISHIMA-SAN?
TOHRU
IT'S FREEZING OUTSIDE
IT MIGHT START SNOWING SOON
THUNK
YOU
WHERE
WHERE WERE YOU?
I'M SORRY
I SHOULD HAVE INFORMED YOU I WAS GOING TO BE LATE
I THOUGHT YOU REMEMBERED EVERYTHING

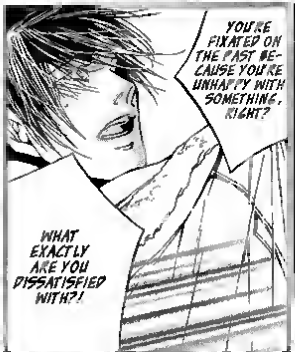
AND WE'RE NEVER COMING BACK...
I WOULD STILL RETURN EVEN IF MY MEMORIES CAME BACK
...
WHY WOULDN'T I?
WASN'T I KICKED OUT OF MY OLD APARTMENT?

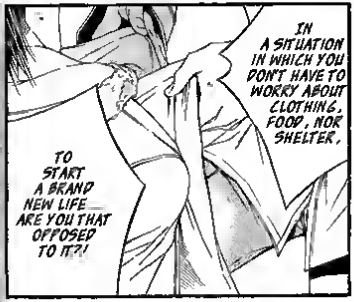
FUJISHIMA-SAN
THE REASON I WAS LATE
WAS BECAUSE I WENT TO VISIT MY OLD APARTMENT AND WORKPLACE
THERE, I-
Grabs

JUST WHO
GAVE YOU PERMISSION TO DO THAT?!


HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT...
IS IT TRULY THAT PAINFUL TO START FROM A BLANK SLATE?

FUJISHIMA-SAN?
SOMETHING SO MEANING-LESS

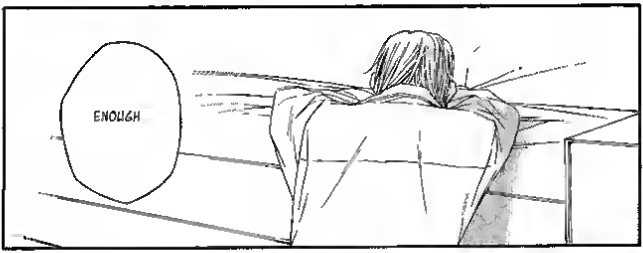

YOU'RE FIXATED ON THE PAST BECAUSE YOU'RE UNHAPPY WITH SOMETHING, RIGHT?
WHAT EXACTLY ARE YOU DISSATISFIED WITH?!

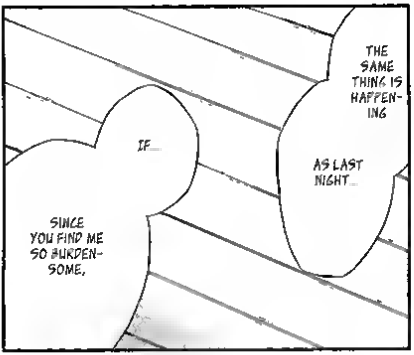

IN A SITUATION IN WHICH YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT CLOTHING, FOOD, NOR SHELTER,
TO START A BRAND NEW LIFE... ARE YOU THAT OPPOSED TO IT?!

FUJI-
SAY IT!
LET GO, FUJISHIMA-SAN...!
I'LL TRY TO FULFILL IT, WHATEVER IT IS!
SAY IT TO MY FACE! TELL ME WHAT IT IS THAT YOU WANT!
YOU...
YOU TOO, FUJISHIMA-SAN!

I KNOW ABOUT IT...
HOW YOU LIED AND KEPT SECRETS FROM ME!
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SHOULD BE TALKING!
I FELT ANXIOUS...
BECAUSE YOU WOULDN'T BE HONEST AND TELL ME EVERYTHING.
WHY ARE YOU SO OPPOSED TO EXPLAINING IT ALL TO ME?

SAY SOME-THING!


ENOUGH


IF...
SINCE YOU FIND ME SO BURDEN-SOME,
AS LAST NIGHT...
THE SAME THING IS HAPPEN-ING

I WON'T INTERFERE ANYMORE
DO AS YOU LIKE
FINE I'LL DO AS I LIKE
I WON'T DEPEND ON YOUR SUPPORT EVER AGAIN

TOHRU...?
TOHRU...?

WHY YOU WANT TO FIND OUT ABOUT YOUR PAST.
IT'S NOT LIKE I CAN'T RELATE TO
SO YOU RAN OUT OF THE HOUSE AFTER GETTING INTO AN ARGUMENT WITH A DRUNKEN FUJISHIMA-SAN?
OH

BUT... FOR REAL?
A BAD-TEMPERED GUY?
AND NOT A SINGLE FRIEND?
APPA-RENTLY
I FIND IT HARD TO BELIEVE TOO
IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE ME,
YET IT FEELS LIKE THEY WERE TALKING ABOUT A COMPLETE STRANGER
.....
THE PERCEPTION I HAVE OF MYSELF MIGHT BE UNRELI-ABLE,
BUT IT'S SO MUCH MORE TANGIBLE THAN OTHER PEOPLE'S DESCRIPTIONS
SPEAKING OF WHICH
YEAH?
THE ONE INTERESTED IN PHOTOGRA-PHY WAS THE PAST ME

A SENPAI FROM MY OLD WORKPLACE TOLD ME SO
HOTARUMA
REALLY?
and "I want to become a photographer."
I can't remember when it was, but you said, "When I've saved up enough money, I'm going to go to a vocational school for photography."
There's one other thing.
THEN HE SHOULD HAVE JUST SAID SO!
IF I KNEW I WOULDN'T BE AS DISINCLINED!
EVERYTHING WOULD HAVE BEEN SIMPLER IF HE'D JUST EXPLAIN!
.....
IN OTHER WORDS, FUJISHIMA-SAN WAS TRYING
TO HELP YOU ACHIEVE WHAT YOU ALWAYS WANTED BEFORE YOUR AMNESIA?

I KNOW HE IS SERIOUSLY CONCERNED FOR ME
AND WISHES THE BEST FOR ME THAT MAKES ME HAPPY
I'M NOT REPROACHING HIM OR ANYTHING...
...
I FELT SO RELIEVED
I THOUGHT TO MYSELF, "THIS IS THE ROUTE BACK HOME."
ON MY WAY BACK FROM THE OLD APARTMENT,
WHEN I SAW THIS NEIGHBORHOOD AGAIN,
I HAVE A PLACE TO RETURN TO,
ALONG WITH THINGS THAT ARE REAL AND THAT I CAN BELIEVE IN.
IT WAS A VERY SOOTHING AND EMPOWERING CONVICTION.

THANK YOU.
WHAT I REALLY WANTED TO SAY TO FUJISHIMA-SAN WAS

IT'S YOUR FAULT FOR SAYING SOMETHING LIKE THAT
WHA- WHAT'S SO FUNNY?
?!
PFFT!
HA HA AHA HA

Phew
FUJISHIMA-SAN MIGHT BE SLOW ON THE UPTAKE,
BUT YOU'RE NOT MUCH BETTER, OR SHOULD I SAY STUPID?
IT'S NOT A QUESTION OF BEING RELIEVED OR NOT
YOU CLUNG TO AND SIDED WITH HIM RIGHT FROM THE START.
I SAID A FEW BAD THINGS ABOUT HIM,
AND YOU QUICKLY CAME TO HIS DEFENSE. OH "HE'S A GOOD FEKSON," AND WHATNOT
...HAH?!
I CAN UNDER-STAND WHY
YOU'RE UPSET ABOUT THE PAST.
EVEN THOUGH I GET IT,
THE PRESENT YOU WANTS TO BELIEVE IN HIM, RIGHT?
ANYWAY,
E-EH BUT THAT'S BECAUSE-

SHOULDN'T YOU HAVE MORE FAITH IN THE FEELINGS YOU HAVE NOW?
I FEEL LIKE...
BE MORE CONFIDENT IN YOURSELF

WHAT'S GOING ON?
RING RING
AH... WELCOME...
.....

UMM UH,
EXCUSE ME
THERE'S A YOUNG MAN NAMED TAKAHISA TOHRU WHO WORKS HERE...

WOULD YOU HAPPEN TO KNOW
WHERE HE IS RIGHT NOW?

YES
BUT HE'S OFF TODAY

IS THERE ANYONE HE'S PARTICULARLY CLOSE TO?
I... SORRY
I'M NOT TOO SURE... SORRY

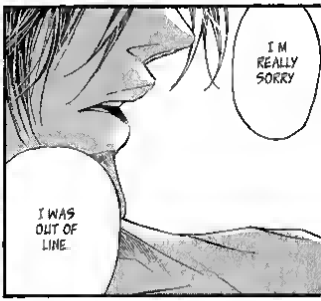
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK
IF...
OKAY...
SORRY FOR BOTHERING YOU...
IF YOU HAPPEN TO SEE HIM LATER,
PLEASE TELL HIM THAT FUJISHIMA-SAN WOULD LIKE TO APOLOGIZE TO HIM
IT'S OKAY NOW HE REALLY LEFT THIS TIME
.....
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK
RING RING

WELL
WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO?
IT'S FREEZING AND HE'S NOT WEARING A COAT.
HE'S SWEATING LIKE CRAZY TOO.
TAKAHISA
WHAT IS IT YOU WANT TO DO AT THIS VERY MOMENT?

CLICK
WHY?
HE DIDN'T EVEN WIPE OFF HIS SWEAT
RUNNING AROUND AFTER GETTING DRUNK.

THANK YOU

ALSO

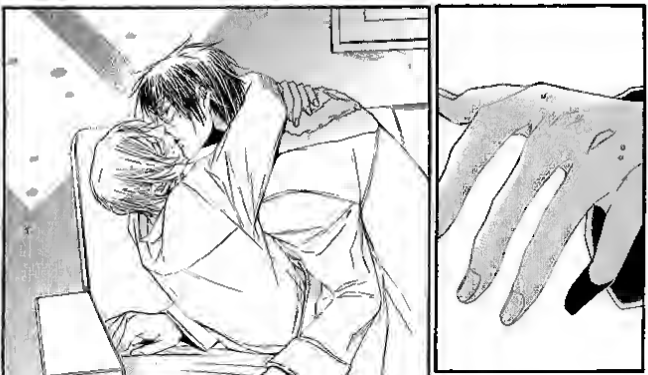

I'M REALLY SORRY
I WAS OUT OF LINE.

YOU'RE HOME

I M
HOME

FUJISHIMA-SAN,
.....
ISN'T THIS UNCOMFOR-TABLE?
NO...
WAIT... FUJISHIMA-SAN

"Shouldn't you have more faith in the feelings you have now?"



≒COLD SLEEP CHAPTER 2 // END≒

Girls
Cold Sleep
RAW PROVIDER: Yuffie
RAW PREPPER: teetee
TRANSLATOR: teetee
PROOFREADER: keeshtihn
CLEANER: gwendelp
TYPE-SETTER: Yuffie
QCER: Yuffie

COLD SLEEP
KNOCK KNOCK

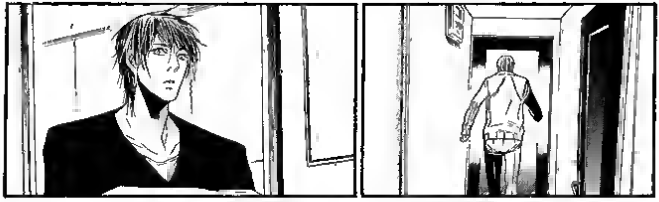
KNOCK
KNOCK
KNOCK
KNOCK

MAY I COME IN?
HOLD ON!
AH
KNOCK KNOCK
...
THAT'S OKAY! I'M ALREADY AWAKE
SORRY
IT'S NOTHING IMPORTANT I CAN COME BACK LATER
WERE YOU STILL SLEEPING?
I AM TRULY SORRY
IN REGARDS TO MANY THINGS

OH...
NO, IT'S ALRIGHT!
I DIDN'T TAKE IT TO HEART
EH?!
I GOT DRUNK AND WAS A TOTAL MESS
I DIDN'T CONSIDER YOUR FEELINGS AND I MADE YOU MISERABLE.
NO! REALLY, IT'S OKAY NOW!
IS THIS YOURS?
I WASN'T EVEN AWAKE
OF WHEN YOU CAME BACK OR COVERED ME WITH THIS BLANKET.

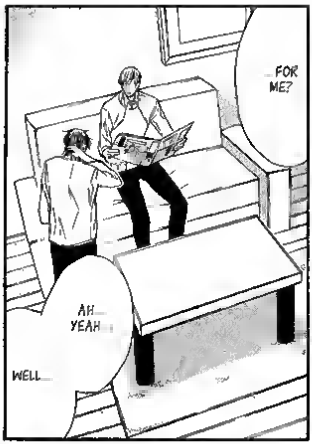
YOU DON'T RECALL GREETING ME?
YOU EVEN SAID, "YOU'RE HOME."
I DID?
IF YOU DON'T CLEARLY REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED LAST NIGHT, WHY ARE YOU APOLOGIZING?
BECAUSE IT FEELS LIKE I'M IN THE WRONG...
I HAVE NO RIGHT TO STOP YOU FROM MEETING YOUR OLD FRIENDS...
AND...
DID I PERHAPS DO ANYMORE TO OFFEND YOU?
EH?!
UH...
NOPE, NOT AT ALL
YOU JUST DOWNED A FEW BOTTLES

I SHOWED YOU SUCH A DISGRACEFUL SIGHT
I
UMM



HE ONLY DID THAT BECAUSE HE WAS SO OUT OF IT
HE'D PROBABLY FAINT IF I TOLD HIM ABOUT THE KISS
IT WAS A GOOD IDEA TO KEEP QUIET ABOUT IT

FUJISHIMA-SAN FELL ASLEEP SOON AFTER THAT.
BESIDES
HE WAS SO DRUNK HE DIDN'T MIND KISSING ME
FORGET IT IT WAS JUST A KISS
IT'S BETTER TO PRETEND IT NEVER HAPPENED.


FOR ME?
AH... YEAH...
WELL...

FUJI-SHIMA-SAN,

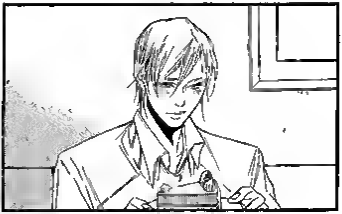
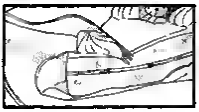
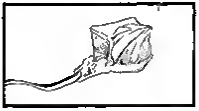
I BOUGHT THIS YES-TERDAY
PLEASE HAVE IT

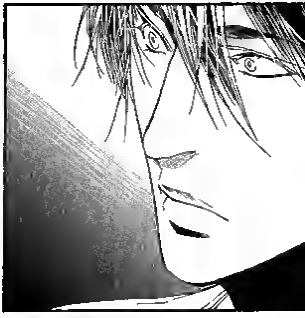
IT'S KIND OF LIKE AN APOLOGY GIFT
I WANTED TO APOLOGIZE...

DIDN'T YOU BUY THOSE CHOCOLATES DURING CHRISTMAS?

KUSADA...
THE GUY WHO WORKS WITH ME AT THE CONVENIENCE STORE
SAID YOU MIGHT HAVE A SWEET TOOTH

YOU DON'T LIKE IT, DO YOU?
SORRY...
NO... I DO LIKE IT.
THANK YOU
I'LL MAKE COFFEE
YOU WANT SOME?
YES, PLEASE
THANK YOU FOR THE MEAL...

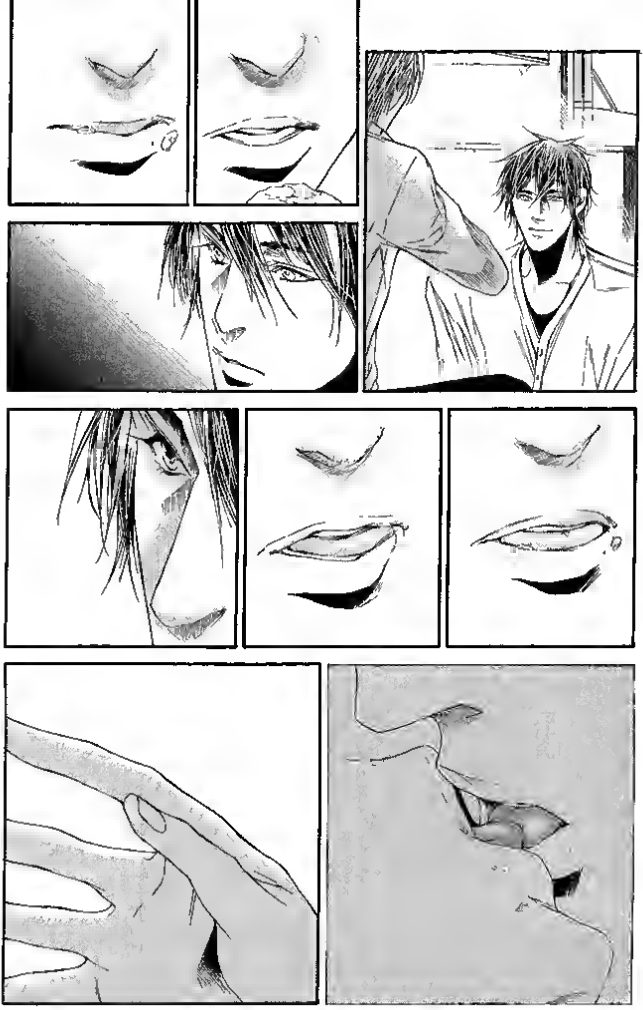






YOU'RE NOT EATING?
OH, I WILL
...
EH?!
!
WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE MY PIECE AS WELL?
OR
YOU REALLY DO LIKE EATING SWEETS, HUH
IT'S YOUR SHARE
YOU SHOULD EAT IT

THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT
. . . .
MY FAMILY
. . . . . .
IS IT WEIRD FOR A MAN LIKE ME
TO ENJOY EATING CAKES?
MY MOTHER WAS VERY STRICT
IRONICALLY, I GREW UP TO LOVE WESTERN PASTRIES, ESPECIALLY CAKES
SHE WOULDN'T LET ME EAT SWEETS BECAUSE I COULD GET CAVITIES
BUT IT'S EMBARRASSING FOR A MAN TO ENTER A CAKE SHOP ALONE
. . . . .
IT'S NOT WEIRD AT ALL!
CAUSE
A BUNCH OF FAMOUS PATISSIERS ARE MEN

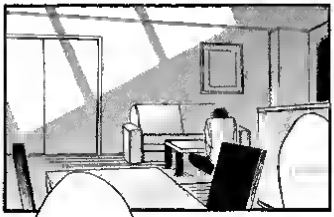
IT'D BE A WASTE TO THROW IT AWAY
ACTUALLY, I DON'T LIKE EATING DESSERTS THAT MUCH
TAKE IT
I BET THE CAKE PREFERS TO BE EATEN BY SOMEONE WHO'LL APPRECIATE IT TOO
THAT'S WHY YOU SHOULD EAT IT PLEASE
.....

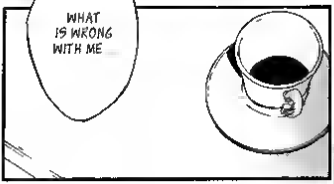


THERE WAS
SOME CREAM
ON YOUR LIPS...
AH...!
SORRY

SHUTS

THANK YOU VERY MUCH

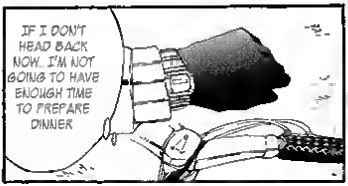


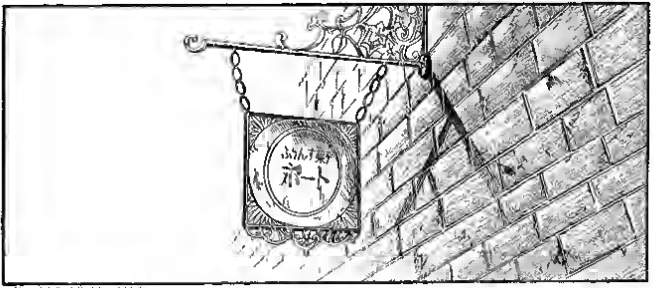

WHAT IS WRONG WITH ME

.....!

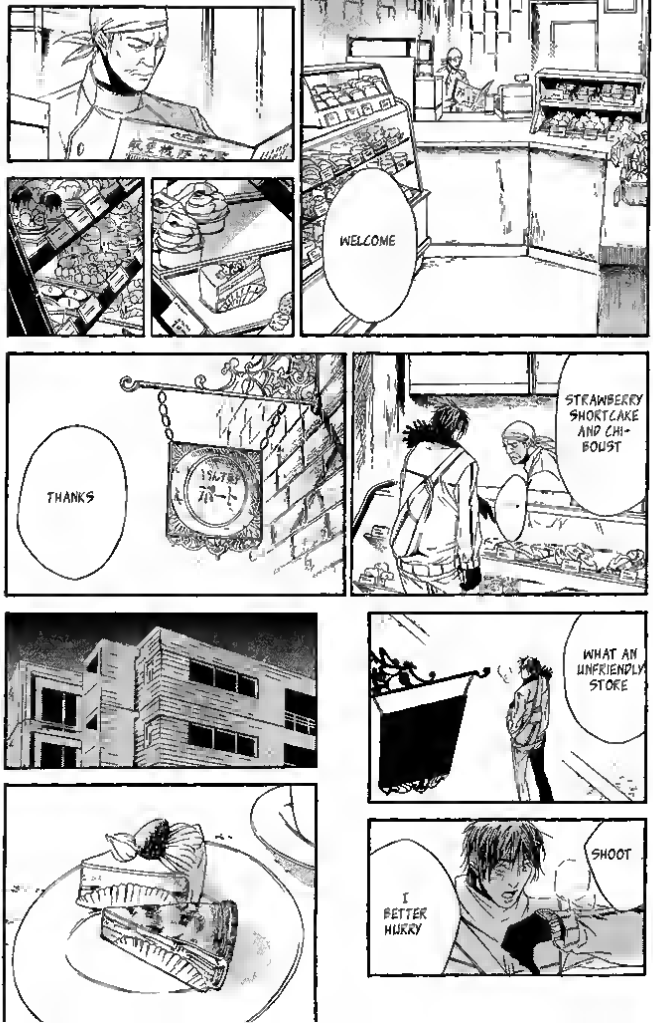
IN PROGRESS!
VALENTINE'S DAY EVENT
GOOD WORK
I CAME TO SEE YOU YOU KNOW~
HAH~ ALRIGHT ALREADY
I'M SO LONELY NOW THAT YOU WORK THE DAY SHIFT
LONG TIME NO SEE
KUSU-DA,
AREN'T YOU EARLY FOR YOUR SHIFT?
Taka-hisa~
HOW DOES IT FEEL
TO WAKE UP IN THE MORNING AND SLEEP AT NIGHT LIKE ALL THE NORMAL FOLKS?
NOT BAD, HUH
BUT THANKS TO THE NEW SCHEDULE, I GET TO EXPLORE AROUND A LOT MORE.
I'M FAMILIAR WITH MOST OF THE STREETS NOW
. . .
NOT BAD

IN JANUARY, MY WORK SCHEDULE WAS CHANGED
I'M PLANNING TO LOOK AROUND THE NORTH SIDE TODAY.
NICE
TAKE CARE
...
EVEN SO,
IT'S HARD TO COME UP WITH A NEW ASPIRATION ALL OF A SUDDEN
FUJISHIMA-SAN NEVER BROUGHT UP PHOTOGRAPHY AFTER OUR FIGHT
MY MIND IS STILL DRAWING A BLANK
PRE-SENTLY
I'VE BEEN TO THIS SHOP BEFORE
THIS ONE TOO





*FRENCH PASTRIES = PORT

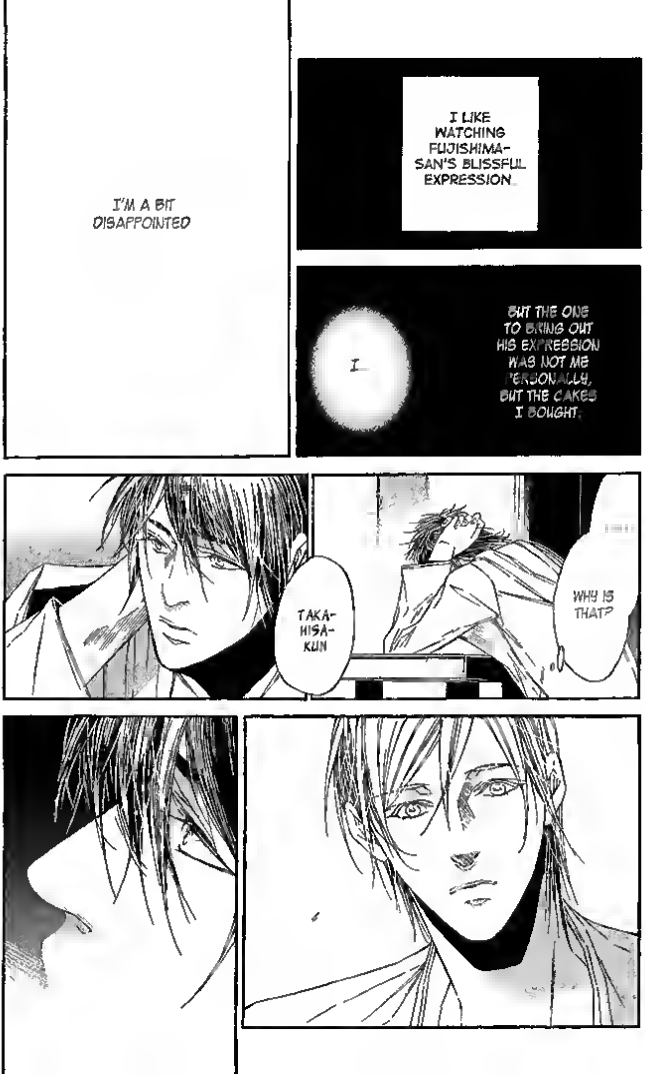

WELCOME
THANKS
STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKE AND CHI-BOUST
WHAT AN UNFRIENDLY STORE
I BETTER HURRY
SHOOT

HEH
YOU'RE WELCOME
THANK YOU
.....
I LIKE WATCHING FUJISHIMA-SAN'S BLISSFUL EXPRESSION
IT MAKES ME HAPPY WHEN I KNOW I CAN BRING JOY TO OTHER PEOPLE
OH
BUT
OH
THAT'S GOOD
TRY THEM
I BOUGHT THEM FROM AN OLD SHOP. THERE WERE LOTS LEFT UNSOLD
ANYTHING YOU BUY TASTES DELICIOUS
TODAY'S CAKES MIGHT NOT TASTE AS GOOD

HOW DOES IT TASTE? IS IT BAD?
SUDDENLY FREEZING UP LIKE THAT—
WHY DON'T YOU TRY IT TOO?
IT'S GOOD, RIGHT?
YEAH
...
MMM!
I'VE NEVER HAD ANY AS GOOD AS THIS
IT'S REALLY DELICIOUS
IT'S EXTREMELY DELICIOUS

SHOP
SHOP
I'M HOME
WELCOME BACK, FUJISHIMA-SAN
IS IT FROM THE SAME CAKE SHOP AS YESTER-DAY'S?

GOOD
HOW IS IT?
AH!
WHAT'S WRONG?
I GET IT


I'M A BIT DISAPPOINTED
I LIKE WATCHING FUJISHIMA-SAN'S BLISSFUL EXPRESSION.
I...
BUT THE ONE TO BRING OUT HIS EXPRESSION WAS NOT ME PERSONALLY, BUT THE CAKES I BOUGHT.
TAKA-HISA-KUN
WHY IS THAT?

≒ COLD SLEEP CHAPTER 3 // END ≒

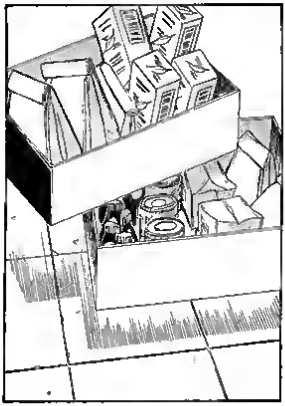
Cold Sleep
Asou Mitsuaki & Konohara
RAW PROVIDER: Yuffie
RAW PREPPER: teetee
TRANSLATOR: teetee
PROOFREADER: keeshtihn
CLEANER: gwendebp
TYPE-SETTER: xavia
QCER: Yuffie

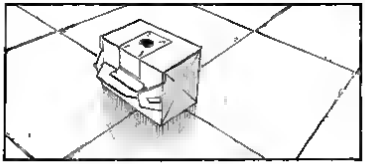
COLD SLEEP
Beep
Beep
Beep

Beep beep beep
Beep beep beep

JUST KEEPS GETTING WORSE
...
Beep beep
clack
MORNING, TAKAHISA-KUN

<*TN: SPECIFIC TYPE OF CHOCOLATE CAKE ORIGINATING FROM VIENNA.>



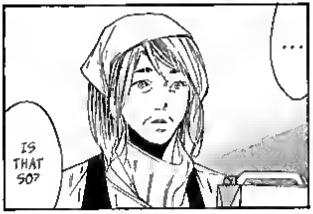


YOU DON'T HAVE TO I SHOULD PAY FOR IT AGAIN
IT'S OKAY TAKE THIS AS MY APOLOGY FOR KNOCKING INTO YOU

DO YOU LIKE CAKES?
MY FRIEND DOES...
HE SAYS THE CAKES HERE ARE ESPECIALLY GOOD

WAIT, I DIDN'T ORDER THE MILLE-FEUILLE
IT'S ONLY A LITTLE BONUS
YOU'VE BEEN COMING EVERYDAY LATELY, HAVEN'T YOU?

SEE YOU NEXT TIME
UH... WAIT
ARE YOU A STUDENT?


...
IS THAT SO?

I'M SORRY IF IT SEEMS LIKE I WAS PRYING
I WANTED TO ASK
IF...

FUJISHIMA-SAN...
I QUIT MY JOB AT THE CONVENIENCE STORE
UMM... YOU KNOW THE PASTRY SHOP I'VE BEEN GOING TO? "FORT"?
THEY HIRED ME.
AND I START TOMORROW
WHY?
AND...
THE OWNER SAID SHE NEEDS TO BE ADMITTED INTO THE HOSPITAL FOR SOME TIME
SHE DIDN'T FEEL COMFORTABLE LEAVING THE SHOP TO HER HUSBAND WHO'S HORRIBLE WITH CUSTOMERS

THEY DO HAVE ANOTHER EMPLOYEE, BUT THAT PERSON SEEMS TO NOT BE OF MUCH HELP
I FELT THAT IF THEY VENTURED TO ASK ME, A REGULAR CUSTOMER,
THEY MUST BE DESPERATELY IN NEED OF WORKERS

IS THIS SOMETHING YOU WANT TO DO?
BUT
SO

BUT AT LEAST IT'S BETTER THAN WORKING AT THE CONVE-NIENCE STORE
I FEEL LIKE I'M NEEDED MORE OVER THERE
...
WELL, I WOULDN'T SAY THAT

OKAY...
...
IF YOU'RE INTERESTED YOU SHOULD TRY IT OUT THEN
...
AH!
THE MADAM TOLD ME I COULD TAKE THE LEFTOVERS HOME.
I CAN BRING BACK LOTS OF CAKES!

ACK!
PORT
They're too soft.
?
THEY'RE CAKES! THEY'RE SUPPOSED TO BE SOFT!
YOU HAVE TO BE GENTLE WITH THEM LIKE THEY'RE WOMEN!
AGAIN!
DARN~
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
WHAT'S WRONG?
HMM?
YOU'VE BEEN SIGHING A LOT RECENTLY

SOMETIMES HIS WORDS ARE SO SPITEFUL HE UPSETS THE CUSTOMERS!
HE DOESN'T NOTICE HIS OWN FAULTS.
AH, HE'S THE CHEF OF THE SHOP—
THE OLD MAN IS REALLY OBSTINATE
I DIDN'T EXPECT TO ADJUST TO THE NEW POSITION OVERNIGHT BUT IT REALLY IS HARD WORK
AND ON TOP OF THAT, THE OLD MAN—
HE HAS ABSOLUTELY NOTHING BUT HIS TALENT FOR MAKING PASTRIES!
BUT HE KEEPS COMPLAINING THAT I'M THE MOST BUMBLING FOOL HE'S EVER MET.
THIS ONE TIME, HE WORE HIS UNIFORM INSIDE OUT FOR THE WHOLE DAY.

MY FAMILY RARELY SPOKE WITH EACH OTHER
I WAS JUST A LITTLE THROWN OFF
FOR TALKING SO LOUDLY DURING DINNER...
EXCUSE ME
I DON'T MIND
SO...
IT MAKES ME HAPPY
TO LISTEN TO YOU
I SEE...
I THOUGHT...

SO THE OLD MAN, HE—
A DUCK RAN INTO OUR SHOP—
OH, I'LL TELL YOU SOMETHING FUNNY THAT HAPPENED NOT TOO LONG AGO
March Special
Strawberry Shortcake ¥420
New!
we'll still be getting snow during April
Because of an unlikely cold front
WE THOUGHT ABOUT CHANGING UP THE DISPLAY—
AND THEN

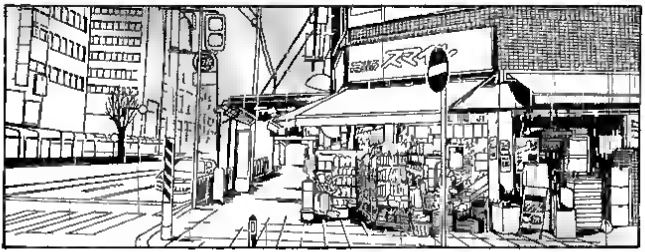
AFTER CONDUCTING RESEARCH ON OUR COMPETITORS
AND ADDING CUTENESS FACTORS TO OUR CAKES
WE'VE BEEN ATTRACTING A LOT MORE CUSTOMERS
THE OLD MAN IS SCRUPULOUS WHEN IT COMES TO THE INGREDIENTS HE USES SO THE CAKES ARE DELICIOUS
HOWEVER, BECAUSE OF HIS GRUFF PERSONALITY, THE CAKES LACK A SWEET, GENTLE APPEAL
!
HOW DID YOU KNOW?!
YEAH. THE SIGNBOARD'S DIFFERENT NOW TOO
WE WERE NEARLY SOLD OUT TODAY
THE OLD MAN EVEN ASKED ME
IF I WANTED TO GIVE BAKING A SHOT
YEAH?! I CHOSE THE DESIGN!
THE MADAM WAS PLEASED WITH MY CHOICE
I PASSED BY THE STOREFRONT WHEN I WENT OUT ON A BUSINESS ERRAND

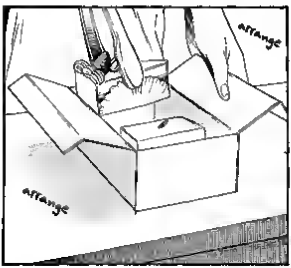
SHOULD I?
THAT WAY YOU CAN EAT CAKES TO YOUR HEART'S CONTENT
WHAT'S WRONG?
NOTHING
ARE YOU HAPPY AT YOUR JOB?
YES

SINCE YOU'RE HAPPY, THEN THAT'S GREAT.
IF...

THE OLD MAN AND THE MADAM ARE KIND TO ME,
AND BEING PRAISED MAKES ME FEEL LIKE ALL MY EFFORTS WERE WORTH IT.
...
I'M REALLY HAPPY
I GET A SENSE OF BELONGING.
FUJI-SHIMA-SAN IS HERE,
AND SEE THAT I HAVE MY OWN ROOM AND DINING SET, AND...
WHEN I COME HOME
I GET TO SEE KUSABA WHENEVER HE DROPS IN TO BUY SOMETHING.
EVEN THOUGH I QUIT THE JOB AT THE CON-VENIENCE STORE.
I NEVER THOUGHT I'D COME TO FEEL THIS WAY.
WHEN I FIRST CAME HERE FOUR MONTHS AGO,
I-

HE'S A MAN
OLDER THAN ME BY SIX YEARS
AN ORDINARY 28-YEAR-OLD GUY WHO'D GET LOST IN A CROWD
THAT WAS WHAT I THOUGHT

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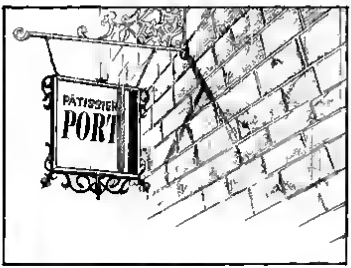

PATISSERIE
PORT

SO SAYS THE BRAT WHOSE HANDS WOULDN'T STOP TREMBLING WHEN HE JUST STARTED
OF COURSE I M ON A PROFES-SIONAL LEVEL

WHOA~
YOU'RE REALLY GOOD AT THIS

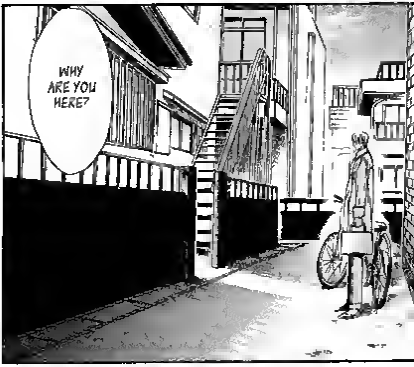
HEH~ IS THAT SO

HEY KUSUDA?
YEAH?
AREN'T WE?
WE WORKED TOGETHER
WE'RE FRIENDS, RIGHT?
HUH?
UMM IF I WAS TO LOSE MY MEMORIES AGAIN,
WOULD YOU LOOK AFTER ME?
WOULD YOU TAKE ME IN?

AS ANY OTHER OLD FRIEND...
YOU'D DO THAT FOR ME, RIGHT?
WHAT'S THIS? DID YOU GET INTO ANOTHER FIGHT WITH FUJISHIMA-SAN?
NO... JUST ASKIN'...
GOOD NIGHT
WAIT TAKAHISA-KUN
...IS IT OKAY TO GIVE ME THIS MUCH?
WE DIDN'T GET MANY CUSTOMERS BECAUSE IT WAS RAINING ALL AFTERNOON.
SO A LOT WAS LEFT OVER.

DOES HE HAVE A GIRL-FRIEND?
YOU CAN ALL EAT THEM TOGETHER
THROWING THEM OUT WOULD BE SUCH A WASTE
WHY DON'T YOU SHARE THEM WITH THAT FRIEND OF YOURS?
PORT
IT NEVER CROSSED MY MIND
WHETHER FUJISHIMA-SAN HAD A GIRLFRIEND OR NOT
HE DOESN'T GO OUT TO MEET WITH ANYONE
I CAN EVEN COUNT THE NUMBER OF TIMES HIS PHONE HAS RUNG
BESIDES IF HE DID HAVE A GIRL-FRIEND
WOULDN'T HE HAVE THOUGHT TWICE BEFORE TAKING ME IN?
ALSO...
BUT
I'M SURE
HE DOESN'T HAVE ONE

IF I'M NOT WRONG, I THINK


WHY ARE YOU HERE?

DID YOU WAIT OUTSIDE FOR A LONG TIME?
AND YOUR HANDS ARE COLD AND RED
YOUR LIPS ARE PALE

...
I WAS JUST PASSING BY
LIAR

WERE YOU WAITING FOR ME?
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?

FUJISHIMA-SAN?

FUJISHIMA-SAN?!

HUH?
I JUST RECEIVED A CALL
FROM SOMEONE WHO CLAIMED TO BE A FRIEND FROM YOUR OLD JOB

WHY
DID YOU GIVE OUT OUR PHONE NUMBER?

AT THAT TIME,
I WANTED TO FIND OUT ALL I COULD ABOUT MY PAST LIFE
WHY DID YOU TELL HIM THE ADDRESS AND PHONE NUMBER TO THE APARTMENT?
!
OH,
WAS IT ISHII-SAN?
.....
HE HAD ALSO TOLD ME THINGS THAT HAD ME WORRIED
NOTHING MUCH HE JUST WANTED TO CATCH UP
SO DID ISHII-SAN REALLY CALL?
WHAT DID HE SAY?
WAS THAT ALL?

ISHII-SAN TOLD ME
THERE WAS A WOMAN
WHO WAS SEARCHING FOR ME
DID HE MENTION A WOMAN?
DID HE NOT SAY ANY-THING
ABOUT THAT PERSON?
FUJI-SHIMA-SAN. DO YOU HAVE A GIRLFRIEND?
NO
THERE SHOULD BE A PERSON
YOU LIKE RIGHT?
HOW ABOUT A PERSON WHO YOU LIKE?

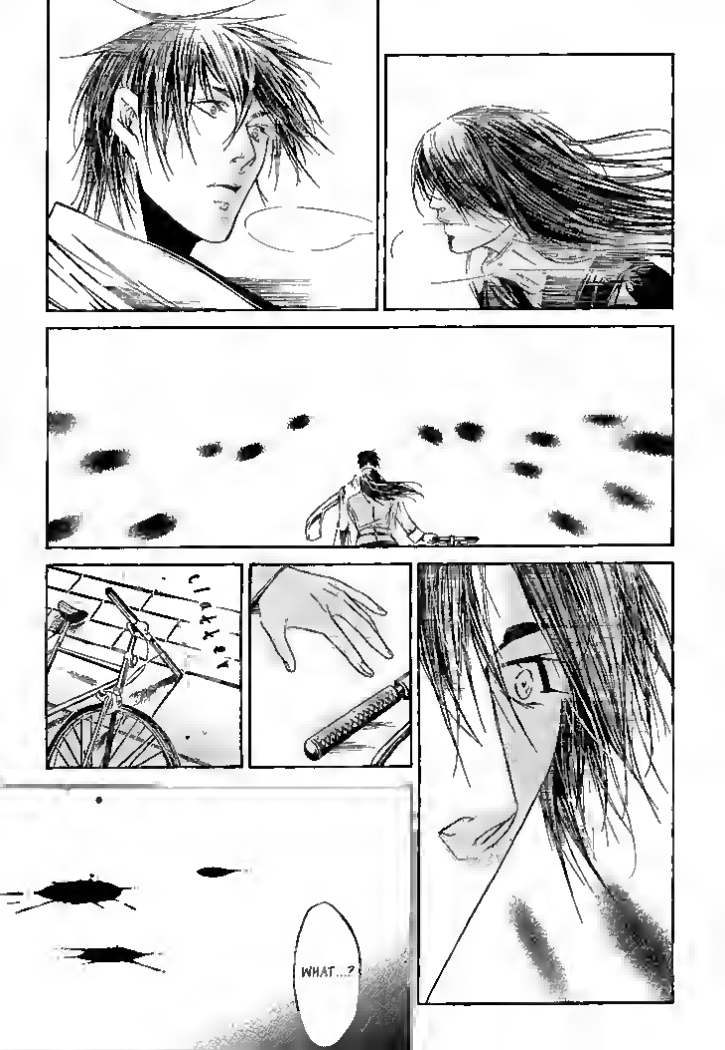
THE WEATHER REPORT DID SAY
IT WAS GOING TO SNOW

UH
WAH!
YOU LOOKED LIKE YOU WERE FREEZING
.....
SORRY
UMM
.....
LET'S GO

WHEN I SUDDENLY TOUCHED HIM
HE HAD A HUGE REACTION
HE SHOWED
THE SAME EXPRESSION BEFORE
HE MUST REALLY LIKE ME
I THINK

I WANT TO TELL HIM
I REALLY WANT TO TELL HIM HIS FEELINGS ARE RECIPROCATED.
AND I WANT
TO TOUCH HIM EVEN MORE
Fidget
Fidget
CHANGE COLORS ALREADY!
COME ON
AL-READY...
I'LL TELL HIM WHEN WE GET BACK TO THE APARTMENT.
IT NO LONGER HAS TO BE AN ILLUSION.
I CAN TOUCH HIM AS MUCH AS I WANT.
AT HOME,
WHERE IT'S JUST THE TWO OF US...

TAKAHISA
TOHRU


WHAT...?

FUJISHIMA-SAN?
WHAT HAPPENED?!
SOMEONE CALL AN AMBULANCE!
AAAH!

THIS IS AN ACCIDENT
DON'T TELL THEM I WAS STABBED
FUJI
FUJISHIMA-SAN!
HOW
PLEASE I'M BEGGING YOU
PROMISE ME
I KNEW IT IT WAS THAT WOMAN..
DON'T SAY ANYTHING
LISTEN TO ME
IF I DIE,
STOP TALKING LIKE THAT! YOU WON'T DIE!
THAT
IF I DIE
YOU WILL INHERIT
ALL MY ASSETS

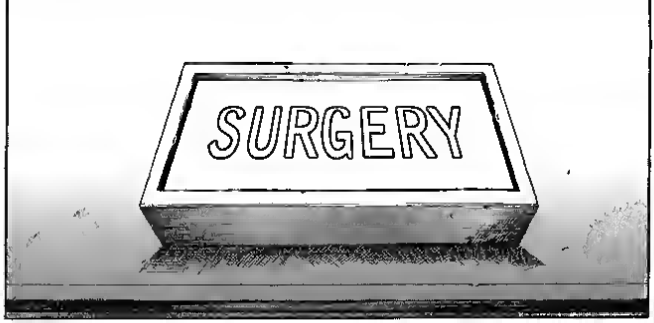
THE APART-MENT AND MONEY
USE THEM WELL...
LIVE LIFE THE WAY YOU WANT
AS YOU WISHED
FREELY AND
!
FUJI-SHIMA-SAN...

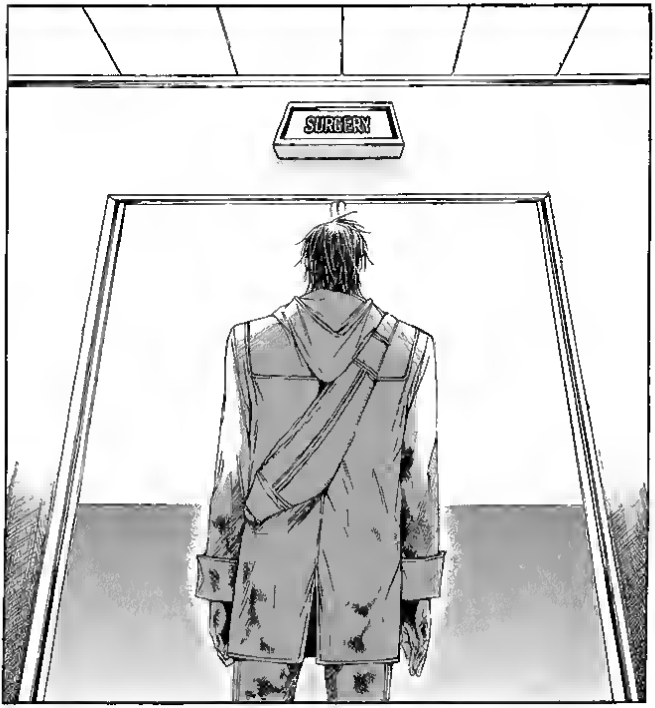
STOP BLEEDING!
SHIT!
OPEN YOUR EYES!
NO...
NOT LIKE THIS!

≒ COLD SLEEP CHAPTER 4 // END ≒

Cold Sleep
Asou Mitsuaki & Konohara
RAW PROVIDER: Yuffie
RAW PREPPER: teetee
TRANSLATOR: teetee
PROOFREADER: keeshtihn
CLEANER: gwendebp
TYPE-SETTER: xavia
QCER: Yuffie

FUJI-SHIMA-SAN!
FUJI-SHIMA-SAN...
FUJI-
PLEASE WAIT HERE.
OK


SURGERY


SURGERY

ARE YOU THE ONE WHO CAME IN WITH THE PATIENT?
DOCTOR! HOW IS HE?!
HIS CONDITIONS ARE NOT FAVORABLE HIS ORGANS ARE DAMAGED AND HE HAS SEVERE INTERNAL BLEEDING
PLEASE BE PREPARED FOR THE WORST
I THINK IT'S BEST YOU CONTACT HIS FAMILY

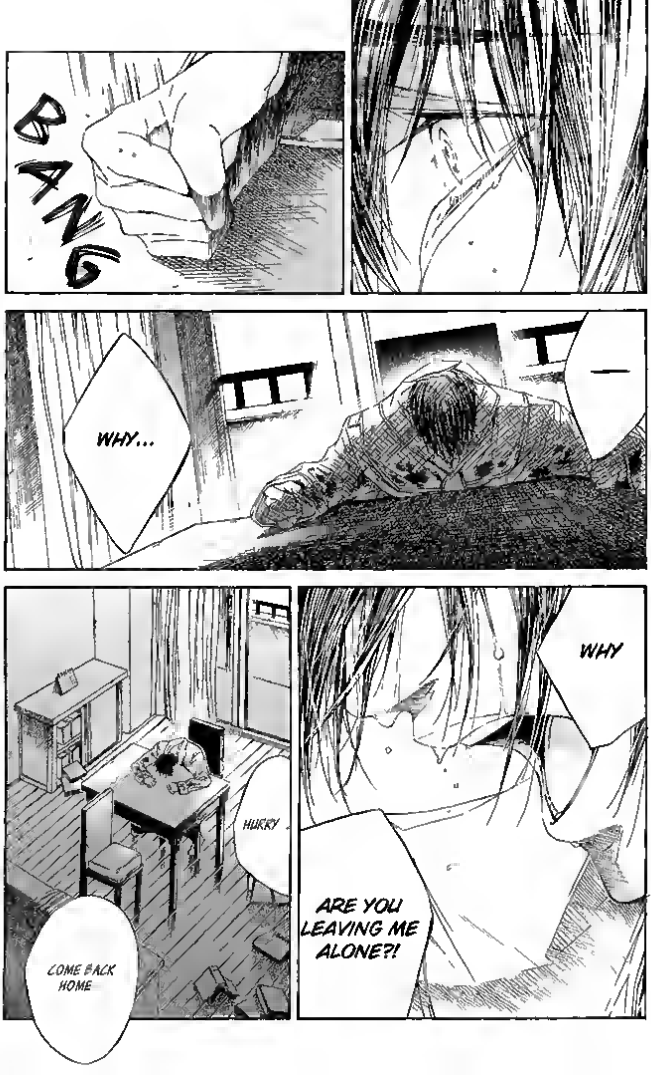
HE ONLY HAS THE PHONE PROVIDED BY HIS COMPANY
IT'S USELESS HIS ADDRESS BOOK IS EMPTY
Tamatake Paper Manufacturing Inc
Fujisaki Hiroshi
I NEED TO GET IN TOUCH WITH HIS FAMILY!
CAN YOU TELL ME THEIR ADDRESS OR SOMETHING?
What?! An accident?
YES

He just joined our company half a year ago
He's serious and taciturn.
We only ever talk about work.
Hmm... i don't have that information.
Hmm... i think he did mention
that he wasn't on good terms with his family
HALF A YEAR AGO...
THAT'S AROUND THE TIME OF MY ACCIDENT
PLEASE! ANYTHING YOU CAN THINK OF...
He kind of always kept to himself, you know?
I'll ask around the office too
But I don't think anybody would know

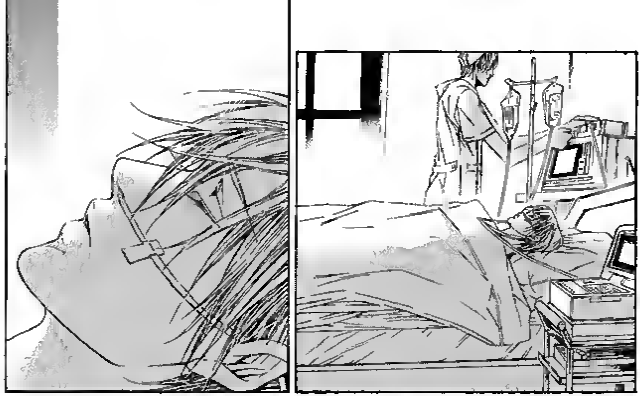
NO POSTCARDS, PHOTOS...
NOTHING THAT CAN POINT TO HIS IDENTITY
SHIT...
THERE'S NOTHING...

FUJISHIMA-SAN DOESN'T HAVE A PAST
IT'S AS IF
WHAT AM I SUP-POSED TO DO NOW?
"He kind of always kept to himself, you know?"

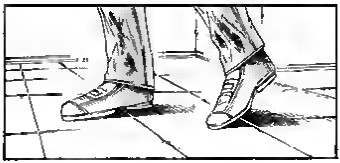
THERE'S ME
.....
I
NEED HIM
ESTRANGED FAMILY,
WE DON'T NEED ANY OF THEM
ALOOF COLLEAGUES
I'M THE ONE WHO CARES ABOUT FUJISHIMA-SAN THE MOST

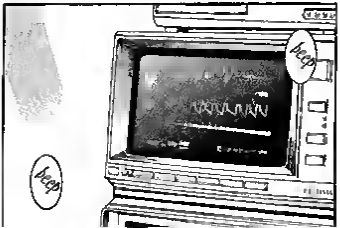

BANG
—
WHY...
WHY
HUCKY
COME BACK HOME
ARE YOU LEAVING ME ALONE?!

HOSPITAL
IN THE END, THE ONLY THING I COULD FIND WAS HIS HEALTH INSURANCE CARD
OH GOOD, YOU'RE HERE
EXCUSE ME
PLEASE FOLLOW ME



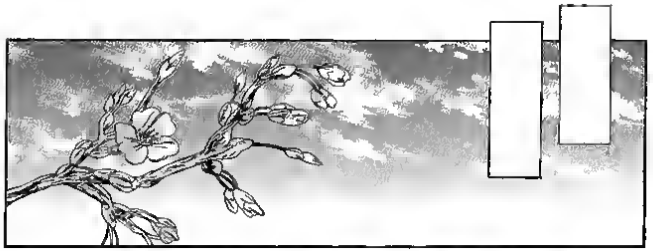
HE WAS JUST TRANSFERRED TO THIS ROOM
HE'S STILL BEING MONITORED CLOSELY
BUT FOR NOW, HE'S OUT OF CRITICAL CONDITION

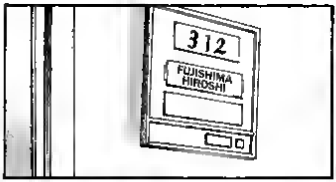



beep
beep

beep
beep
beep
beep
TOHKU

DON'T CRY
HEY
THERE'S NO NEED TO CRY




312
FUJISHIMA
HIROSHI

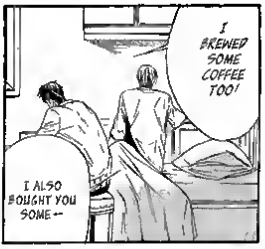
HI, FUJISHIMA-SAN

HERE!
AND TODAY

YOU DON'T HAVE TO VISIT ME EVERY DAY I M ALREADY RECOVERING
BUT I WON'T STOP WORRYING UNLESS I SEE YOU

AWESOME AREN'T I?
I ADDED THE GARNISHING MYSELF.
THE DOCTOR SAID YOU CAN EAT NORMAL FOOD AGAIN, SO I BROUGHT THIS TO CELEBRATE

IS YOUR WOUND HURTING?!


I BREWED SOME COFFEE TOO!
I ALSO BOUGHT YOU SOME--

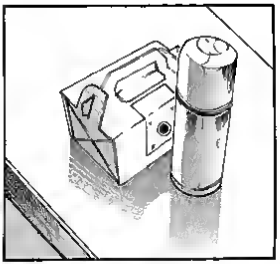
I'M FINE
I TWISTED MY BODY, SO

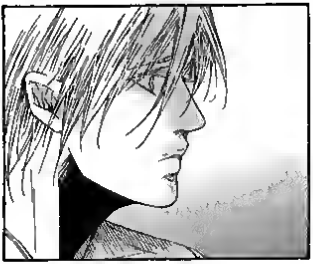
...
ISN'T IT ABOUT TIME
YOU TELL ME WHAT'S GOING ON?
YOU KNOW HER, DON'T YOU?
THAT WOMAN
AT THAT TIME,
SHE CALLED OUT TO ME
IF YOU DIDN'T JUMP IN, I WOULD HAVE BEEN THE ONE WHO WAS STABBED
WHO IS SHE?
HER TARGET WAS ACTUALLY ME, RIGHT?
THAT'S BETWEEN ME AND HER
YOU DON'T NEED TO KNOW ABOUT IT
YOU NEARLY DIED! WHY ARE YOU STILL PROTECTING HER?!

I
I WON'T FORGIVE HER
EVERYBODY HAS TO BE PUNISHED FOR HIS OR HER OWN CRIME!
.....
STOP SHOUTING THIS IS A HOSPITAL

I'LL ONLY GET ON YOUR NERVES IF I STAY

TAKA-HISA-KUN ?
I'M GOING BACK





DAMN IT.
FUCK!
OWW
CLATTER
MORE SNOW
AND IT'S ALREADY APRIL

I'M ONLY GOING BACK BECAUSE I LEFT THE THERMOS
THAT'S ALL
EXCUSE ME. WHERE'S FUJISHIMA-SAN?
ANOTHER VISITOR CAME BY
THEY'RE PROBABLY IN THE LOUNGE
FOR THE PAST WEEK OR SO
SHE'S BEEN COMING DURING THE AFTERNOONS
A VISITOR?
YES

IT'S THAT WOMAN...

I'M DOING A LOT BETTER
AS YOU CAN SEE,
YOU DON'T HAVE TO COME ANY-MORE
WHY IS SHE
I WOULDN'T MIND JUMP-ING OUT THIS WINDOW
IF YOU TELL ME TO GO DIE.
IF YOU WANT...
REGARDLESS OF WHAT HAPPENED OR WOULD HAVE HAPPENED TO ME, I WON'T EVER BLAME YOU
...
HE'S ONLY AN ACQUAIN-TANCE, RIGHT?
WHY ARE YOU PROTEC-TING TAKAHISA TOHRU TO THIS EXTENT?
WHY?
I GET IT, BUT...
PLEASE STOP...

I EXPLAINED IT TO YOU BEFORE
TOHRU'S LOST ALL HIS MEMORIES
ME...?
JUST BECAUSE HE FORGOT,
EVERYTHING'S ALRIGHT?
WE'RE SUPPOSED TO FORGIVE HIM LIKE THAT?!
THEN...
TO HAVE HIM PAY FOR SOMETHING HE CAN'T REMEMBER,
OR BE PUNISHED, WOULD BE TOO CRUEL, NO?
THAT MAN,

KILLED MY LITTLE BROTHER!

TAKAHISA TOHRU.

≒ COLD SLEEP CHAPTER 5 // END ≒

Cold Sleep
Asou Mitsuaki & Konohara
RAW PROVIDER: Yuffie
RAW PREPPER: teetee
TRANSLATOR: teetee
PROOFREADER: keeshtihn
CLEANER: gwendebp
TYPE-SETTER: xavia
QCER: Yuffie

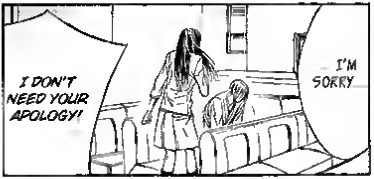
COLD SLEEP
THAT MAN KILLED MY LITTLE BROTHER

TAKAHISA TOHRU
SWERVED FROM THE OPPOSITE LANE INTO MY BROTHER,
DESTROYING HIM ALONG WITH THE CAR
Haa
Haa
Haa
Haa

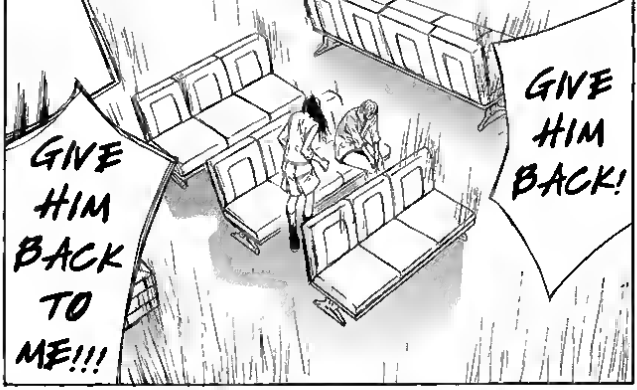
THERE WAS NO NEWS COVERAGE THERE WASN'T MUCH OF AN INVESTIGATION EITHER
EVEN THOUGH IT WAS SUCH A MAJOR ACCIDENT,
TO BRING MY BROTHER'S CASE DOWN
FOR THAT MAN...
EXACTLY HOW MUCH DID IT TAKE?
...
HOW MUCH DID YOU PAY THEM OFF?
IF IT WASN'T FOR THAT SO-CALLED COLLEAGUE OF HIS WHO KNEW YOUR NEW ADDRESS,
I NEVER WOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO FIND YOU...
NOT ONLY THAT,
BUT YOU ALSO REMOVED ALL TRACES OF HIM FROM THE ACCIDENT.

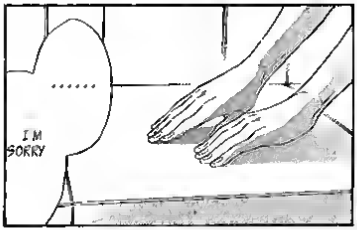
YOU WERE RELIEVED, THINKING YOU GOT AWAY SCOT-FREE, HUH?

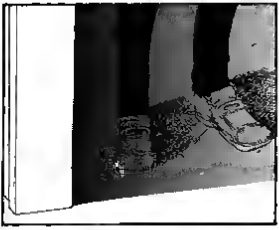
IN YOUR FUCKING DREAMS!


I'M SORRY
I DON'T NEED YOUR APOLOGY!

NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU APOLOGIZE,
OR HOW MANY TENS OF THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS YOU THROW AT US,
MY BROTHER STILL DIED!


GIVE HIM BACK!
GIVE HIM BACK TO ME!!!


.....
I'M SORRY



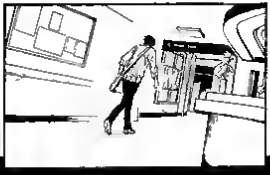
AND THEN TO PAY FOR A CRIME HE HAS NO RECOLLECTION OF
TOHRU, HE
FROM WHAT I KNOW, HE'S LED A VERY UNFORTUNATE LIFE
I JUST COULDN'T BEAR IT

I NEVER THOUGHT
THIS WAS SOMETHING THAT COULD BE FORGIVEN OR FIXED WITH MONEY

I THOUGHT THIS WAS HIS SECOND CHANCE AT LIFE.
WHEN HE LOST HIS MEMORY, I...
I WANTED HIM TO LIVE EASILY THIS TIME. HAPPILY...
I WANTED HIM TO FINALLY BE HAPPY.
YOU...
TOHRU'S SAVINGS MAY NOT HAVE BEEN MUCH, BUT I GAVE YOU ALL OF IT
I want my brother...
It's too selfish
WHATEVER I CAN DO FOR YOU IN MY POWER... I WILL

I'LL TAKE ON THE BURDEN OF HIS CRIME PLEASE—
I'M SORRY...
Don't say any-more
STOP IT!
I'M SORRY...
TRULY SORRY...

stagger



"Why don't you just start your life anew?"
"Isn't it good that you lost your memory?"

"I found the signet in my luggage but no bank book."
"So... I must not have any savings, right?"

"There was barely any news coverage"
"We suspected you were some sort of political bigwig or elite and swept this incident under the rug."
"covering that big of an accident."
"To start a brand new life... Are you that opposed to it?!"
"killed my little brother!"
"Takahisa Tohru"

tumble
tumble
tumble
SLIP
...
Ahh...

AHHH...
AH...!
NN...
MM!
AAHHH...
Ahhh...

I'm sorry...
...
sorry...
I'm really
I heard everything just now...
I-I didn't know...
TAKAHISA TOHRU...

ARE YOU CRYING?
Pft...
DON'T REMEMBER A THING, EH?
WELL, PAY ATTENTION BECAUSE YOU WERE FALLING ASLEEP WHILE DRIVING,
MY PARENTS AND I HAVE TO LIVE A FUTURE WITHOUT MY BROTHER IN IT...
HE DID HAVE A FEW MISDEMEANORS
AND WE WERE AT WITS END WITH HIS JUVENILE DELINQUENCY
BUT THEN HE MIRACULOUSLY TURNED AROUND
SAID HE WAS GOING TO SUCCEED THE FAMILY BUSINESS
JUST WHEN HE DECIDED TO TAKE HIS LIFE SERIOUSLY, HE GOT INTO THE ACCIDENT

DO YOU KNOW WHAT IT FELT LIKE FOR US TO LISTEN TO THEM?!
"THAT'S WHAT YOU GET FOR BEING AN IMPUDENT RASCAL."
THOSE WHO ATTENDED THE FUNERAL SERVICE WHISPERED BEHIND OUR BACKS,
I DO...
I COULDN'T REMEMBER
ANYTHING ABOUT THE ACCIDENT OR YOUR BROTHER...
MY SINCERE CONDOLENCES...

I KNOW THAT PAIN...
TO LOSE SOMEONE DEAR TO YOU
BUT
I DO KNOW WHAT IT FEELS LIKE
I...
To do that sort of thing,
I

thud
I'm sorry
thud
I'm sorry
thud
I'm sorry
thud
I'm sorry
LIFT YOUR HEAD
thud
I'm sorry

SLAP
SLAP
SLAP
SLAP
THIS TIME,
DON'T YOU DARE FORGET
THAT YOU'VE TAKEN SOMEONE'S LIFE AWAY.
CARRY THAT BURDEN WITH YOU
FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE

THAT I M SORRY
TELL THE MAN WHO'S FROTECTING YOU

FUJI-
SHIMA-
SAN
...
—IS
SOMEONE
THERE?

YES BUT I SLIPPED IN WHEN THE NURSES WEREN'T PAYING ATTENTION...
SORRY I WON'T TAKE LONG
TAKAHISA-KUN?
BUT VISITING HOURS ARE OVER...
YOU CAME BACK JUST BECAUSE OF THAT?
IT COULD'VE WAITED UNTIL TOMORROW
...
FOR SAYING THOSE HORRIBLE THINGS
...
I JUST WANTED TO APOLOGIZE
FOR WHAT?
Swish

WHAT HAPPENED?
...
I...
I DIDN'T WANT TO BE ALONE SO I
NOTHING

WERE YOU OUTSIDE THE WHOLE TIME?
YOUR HANDS ARE FREEZING

FUJI-SHIMA-SAN
TAKA-HISA-KUN?
...
FUJI-SHIMA-SAN
FUJI-SHIMA-SAN!
!
TAKAHISA-KU-
...!

STOP..
STOP IT...!
GET OFF.
NO..
AREN'T YOU IN LOVE WITH ME?
.....

TO THE POINT YOU'D KEEP ME HIDDEN IN YOUR APARTMENT WHEN I LOST ALL MY MEMORIES
YOU LOVE ME SO MUCH THAT YOU WOULD SACRIFICE YOURSELF,
I'M IMPORTANT TO YOU, RIGHT...?
EVEN THOUGH I'M A MURDERER,
I
TOH-RU...?
LIKE YOU...

I LOVE YOU
I LOVE YOU, FUJISHIMA-SAN
THIS WASN'T HOW
I WANTED TO SAY IT
THIS ISN'T EVEN THE TIME TO—
THERE ARE MUCH MORE IMPORTANT THINGS... THINGS THAT NEED TO BE CLEARED UP
..FUJI-SHIMA-SAN?

YOU LOVE ME, RIGHT ?
DO YOU LOVE ME?
GO HOME
...

I
THAT'S NOT AN ANSWER
IT'S ONLY BECAUSE YOU'VE FORGOTTEN
YOU..
I
You hated me back then
That's why

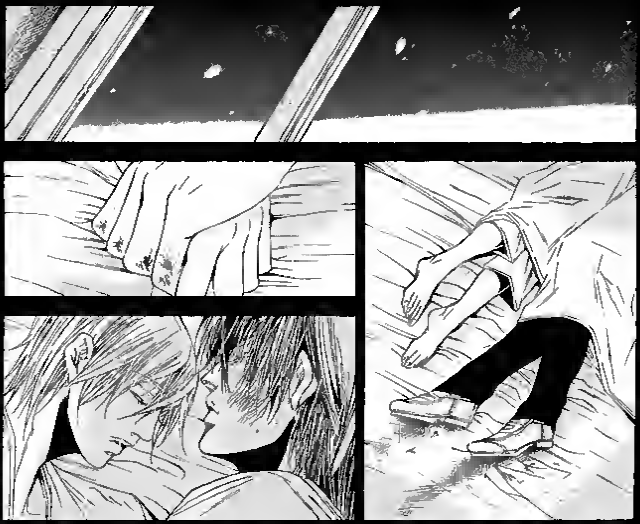
THEN IT'S GOOD
IT'S GOOD THAT I'VE LOST MY MEMORIES
IT'S JUST PERFECT THAT I THREW AWAY THE ME WHO DISLIKED YOU
I LOVE YOU
I LOVE YOU

I LOVE YOU.
YOU FOOL

HE SPOKE THOSE FEW PURE-HEARTED WORDS
WITH A TREMBLING VOICE,

JUST
AN

"I LOVE
YOU"...



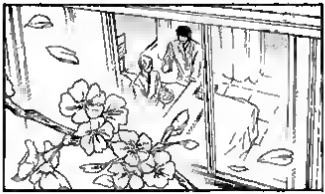
TRAFFIC DIVISION
HUH?
SOUTH POLICE DEPARTMENT

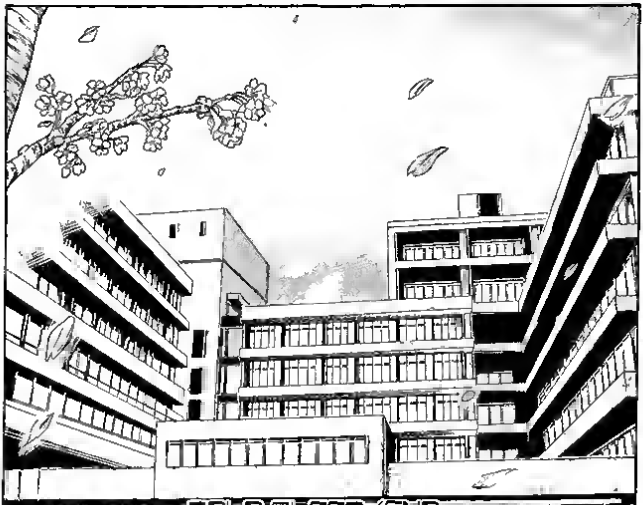
YOU CLAIM YOU'RE THE PARTY AT FAULT
IN A MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT FROM 6 MONTHS AGO...?
WELL, I'M SURE WE CONDUCTED A THOROUGH ENOUGH INVESTIGATION ON OUR END
AS FUJISHIMA-SAN HAD WISHED FOR ME A NEW BEGINNING,
CAR ACCIDENT
ONE DRIVER DEAD
PORT
GOOD WORK TODAY
I DIDN'T RECEIVE ANY CRIMINAL PENALTIES.

I CAN'T GET RID OF THE WEIGHT ON MY CHEST
EVEN SO,
I CAN HEAR HER TELLING ME, "DON'T YOU DARE FORGET."
I FEEL THAT SADNESS HAMMERING ON MY CHEST
EVERY TIME
I WILL USE EVERY FIBER OF MY BEING,
EVEN THOUGH I'M LOST AS TO WHAT I SHOULD DO,
EVERY OUNCE OF MY SOUL, TO ATONE.

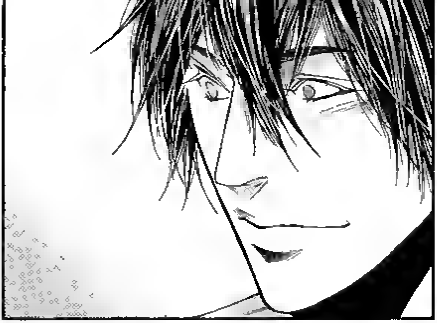
HEY
TODAY I GOT CHEESE-CAKE AND FRAISIER
...
I'M GETTING DISCHARGED
IS SOME-THING WRONG?
...
REALLY?!
SHOULD BE...
SOMETIME NEXT WEEK

I'LL GET TO WELCOME YOU HOME
THIS TIME,
...
I'LL BUY A HUGE CAKE
AS CELEBRATION OF YOUR RECOVERY
I CAN'T EAT ALL THAT
EH?

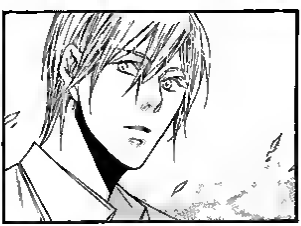


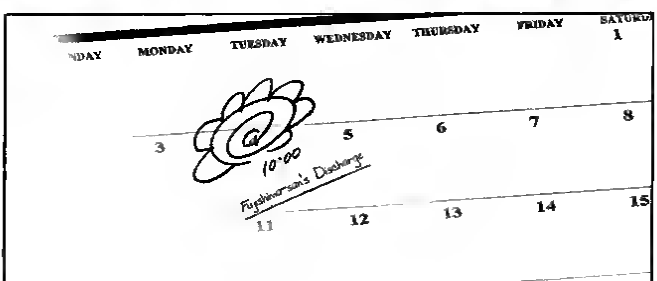

COLD SLEEP/END

Flower morning
05:03
ONLY 5, HUH?
BLINK
HOW EXCITED CAN I GET



HOSPITAL




MONDAY
TUESDAY
WEDNESDAY
THURSDAY
FRIDAY
1
3
5
6
7
8
10:00
Fujishima-san's Discharge
11
12
13
14
15

END

The memory of the injury inflicted in the stomach was still fresh, but the wound was healing thoroughly and barely ached anymore. Fujishima Keishi was finally permitted to walk just when the sakura season was about to end. He was expecting to leave the hospital soon after, but the doctor said, "We still need to observe your condition for a while longer." Therefore, the date of discharge was postponed.

The occupant of the hospital bed next to his was a man in his sixties. But the senior rarely stayed in the room, and thus there was no one to talk to. With nothing to do all day, Fujishima would fall asleep in the afternoon and be alert and wide awake at night. Lights-out was 9 P.M. – a good many hours away until the sun rose again. Lying on the bed, unable to fall asleep, Fujishima decided to get up. It was only ten o'clock. The hallway was dim, and the only light came from the nurses' booth.

"Oh yeah. Did Cake-kun come by today?" Nurse Ishikawa's voice carried through the window.

"I believe so. There were some pastries in the lounge." That voice belonged to the other designated night shift nurse, Nurse Nomura.

"You're talking about that strapping young man who always comes to visit Fujishima-san in Room 301, right? He works at Port's. Their cakes are delicious."

Fujishima's lips curled into a smile of their own accord.

"Is Cake-kun Fujishima-san's brother?"

"Nope. I checked the guest log. Their surnames are different."

"Then they're friends? But the gap in their ages is quite large."

Fujishima grew slightly worried at the direction the conversation was headed, so he swiftly brought it to a stop. Timing his entry just right, he walked toward the light source and softly called out, "Excuse me..."

"Oh, Fujishima-san. Is something wrong?" asked Nurse Ishikawa with a smile. She was roughly forty years old and wore glasses.

"I'm having trouble sleeping."

"Would you like me to have the doctor prescribe you some sleeping pills?"

"No, no. That's alright," he replied fervently as the nurse was ready to make the call to the physician. "It's not so serious to warrant medication. I think walking around for a bit to change up my mood would be enough. I'll be right back."

Hospital protocol restricted patients from leaving their rooms after lights-out. However, after mulling over the idea for a while, Nurse Ishikawa nodded. "Alright. Please go and come back quietly," the nurse gently whispered.

With a soft "Thanks," Fujishima left the hospital wing. He took the elevator to the ground floor and turned into the hall that led to the rear exit. The hall usually bustled with activity, but presently, not a shadow was in sight. The only sounds were the footfalls from his sandals.

It was colder than expected outside the building. A chilling breeze had him wrapping his coat tighter around his body. Past the parking lot was a small courtyard, and after the small hill was a sakura tree. Even in the poor lighting outside, Fujishima could clearly see the falling flower petals.

He took off his coat, laid it under the sakura tree, and sat down with his back against the trunk. Even though there wasn't any wind, the flowers that lived their full life cycle continuously dropped to the ground. Just by reaching out, the withering remains would land into the palms of your hand.

Watching the bright petals leaves you with an eerie chill. While admiring the withering sakura flower alone in the midst of the night, Fujishima was hit with a strong sense of loneliness.

Many things happened throughout the year, but he rarely felt lonely. Living with an amnesiac Tohru has been different than what Fujishima had in mind. There was no way to determine if it was all fortunate or unfortunate.

What is Tohru doing right now? His shift should have ended, so he should be eating dinner or showering. Showering... Fujishima quickly closed his eyes to purge the thoughts of a naked body he had yet to see. But the action only served to strengthen the image in his mind. He remembered how... how it felt to be touched by Tohru. Although Fujishima knew it was obscene, as memory and imagination overlapped, he lost control of his thoughts.

"Just...stop..." But his body continued to betray him. Warmth slowly spread from his core, and heat built up in his lower half. It was useless to try to focus his mind elsewhere.

"What now...?" He hated the reaction – the painful throbbing – his lower half was having. There was nothing left that he could do but to cover his front with the coat and make his way back to a restroom in the hospital... There weren't many people walking the halls at this time of night. But what if someone spotted him on the off-chance? And to know that that person would wonder what questionable activity he was partaking while he was outdoors? He would die of embarrassment!

Yet leaving it alone was not an option. He quickly took in his surroundings and realized the sakura was situated at the edge of the courtyard. He slowly circled around the tree until he was behind it. It was a little too dark for his liking, but unless someone climbed over the crest of the hill, no one could see him here. Even though he felt repulsed, he had made his decision. He couldn't go back in without fixing the issue, and he did promise Nurse Ishikawa he would return promptly.

So once again, he placed the coat on the ground and laid on top of it. He pulled his pajama pants down below his knees. It was chilly, but he couldn't risk soiling his clothes.

"Mm!"

As soon as his hand grasped it, it throbbed violently in response. He could still feel the hard ground digging uncomfortably into his back. The scent of soil and foliage in the wind... was strangely arousing.

"...Nn... Ngh..."

He closed his eyes and let his imagination run free. A tall man was hugging Fujishima from the back and teasing his excited member. The fingertips of the foreign hand were slightly rough. The voice against his ear was whispering his name like a mantra. As if he was accepting an invitation to kiss, Fujishima parted his lips.

"Ah... Mmph... Hmm..."

The hands stroking him were large and rough with months of kitchen and cleaning work.

"Nn!" The pleasure spiked. His body was thrumming with vibrations, and a sweet numbness spread through his limbs. All the while, the sakura petals continued to fall, covering him like a blanket of snow. It was almost as if they too were ashamed of the perverse man under their branches.

....

The guilt wouldn't leave him. Perhaps it never would. And so he shifted his gaze away from the beautiful and imaginary scenery.

"...-san. Fujishima-san."

He opened his eyes at the call of his name. The haze before his vision cleared up to reveal the face of a smiling man.

"I can't believe you're asleep."

Fujishima sat up and glanced at his watch. It was almost 9:30 in the morning. He must have eaten breakfast, laid back down, and fallen back to sleep. He began to speak. "Today..."

"At last minute's notice, Pops had to take care of something, so Port wasn't open," the man he was interested in cut him off, smiling brightly at him.

"Wait..."

Tohru's fingers brushed a few strands of Fujishima's hair. The innocent gesture sent shivers down Fujishima's back.

"Is this a flower petal?" Tohru examined the white petal in his hand.

"You went out for a walk?"

Memories of last night enflamed Fujishima's cheeks.

"What is it? Are you alright?"

"Uh..." Fujishima sprawled on top of his pillow, hoping to hide his blushing face.

"Fujishima-san? Please say something."

His body was being rocked. This was his reality, and his imagination was left beneath that sakura tree – the two were never meant to overlap. And Fujishima understood this very clearly.

END

Thank you very much for purchasing "Cold Sleep."
I am the one drawing the story, Asou Mitsuaki.

For someone who was also a reader, I never would have imagined I'd get a chance to partake in this work...
"This scene would have been better this way," and "I actually wanted to draw it more like this" were some of my many thoughts...
I regret my skills were not up to par, but I accumulated a valuable and enriching experience from this.

To the original novelist, Narise-sensei:
I based the last scene on your polite comments from the magazine issue.
I feel guilty and at the same time, thankful for worrying you and asking for your opinions and suggestions.

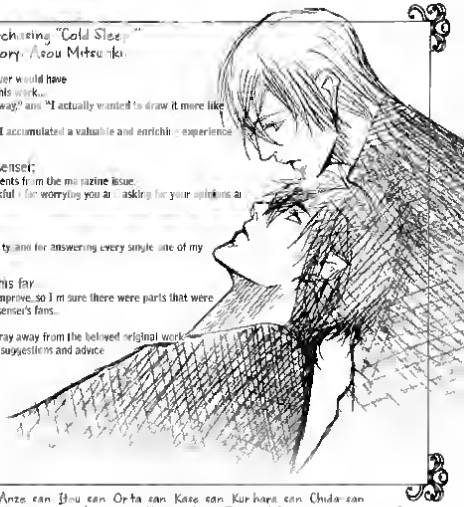
To Editor-sama:
I am so thankful for your patience, tenacity and for answering every single one of my questions without fail.

To the reader-sama who came this far:
My art and drawing style have much to improve, so I'm sure there were parts that were painful to look at. Especially for Narise-sensei's fans...
There were a lot of differences use.
I am sorry that I had to transform and stray away from the beloved original work.
If you don't mind, I welcome any and all suggestions and advice.

I received much help from many friends!
Thank you all!
I will work hard on "Cold Light."

Thank you for reading until here.

2011/03 Asou Mitsuaki



special Thanks: Anze san, Ibu san, Orita san, Kase san, Kurihara san, Chida san, Hirakawa san, Asaka san, Yuduki chan, Editor N Sawa sama, Producer S Tou sama, everyone at Libre Publishing, Family

HELLO EVERYBODY. THIS IS KONOHARA NARISE, AUTHOR OF THE ORIGINAL NOVEL.
I AM SO HAPPY THAT THIS STORY WAS ADAPTED INTO A MANGA.

I AM SO GRATEFUL TO ASOU SENSEI FOR DRAWING THIS BOOK. WHILE THE MANGA WAS RUNNING IN THE ISSUES, EVERY TIME I SAW THE TWO CHARACTERS, I WAS CAPTIVATED BY THEIR DETAILED AND HANDSOME FEATURES.

THE MANGA ADDED LOTS OF CHARM TO THE MOOD OF THE STORY, SO I BELIEVE READERS OF THE ORIGINAL WORK WOULD APPRECIATE THIS VERSION TOO.

THIS BOOK IS BASED ON THE FIRST NOVEL OF THE TRILOGY. I HOPE YOU WILL ENJOY ITS SEQUELS, "COLD LIGHT" AND "COLD FEVER," AS ABREED MANGA VERSIONS OF THE SEQUELS WILL ALSO BE UNDER ASOU-SENSEI'S CARE. PLEASE LOOK FORWARD TO THE EXCITING DEVELOPMENT IN THE FOLLOWING WORKS.

KONOHARA NARISE